

# SHALOM

GREENSBORO

**B'NAI  
TURNS 50**  
GENERATIONS OF  
LEARNING  p6

**Learning  
the Lingo**  
February Is  
Disability  
Advocacy  
Month p15

**A Mensch  
Remembered**  
Food Pantry Named  
for David D. Frazier, z"l p5



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## Meet Rachael Smith-Vaughan

Rachael Smith-Vaughan has more than 20 years of experience in college and career counseling. Her career began at the American Nicaraguan School in Managua. While growing the college and career counseling department, she advised students from more than 20 countries. Moving to the university side, Ms. Vaughan served as the Senior Assistant Director of International Undergraduate Admissions for Bentley University and then the Director of College and Career Counseling at the American Hebrew Academy here in Greensboro.



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RSMITHVAUGHAN

# Education



## THE FOUNDATION OF JEWISH LIFE

***“Take to heart these instructions with which I charge you this day.  
Teach them to your children.”***

Deuteronomy 6:6-7

Welcome to the first *Shalom Greensboro* issue of 2021, a look at Jewish education inside our community.

My own journey began in my parents’ home here in Greensboro and continued at Temple Emanuel’s religious school. Perhaps the educational curriculum at the Temple was not quite as rigorous then or, more likely, I just wasn’t paying sufficiently close attention. Regardless, I cannot say that I came out with a strong background in Jewish history, practice, or language. However, my interest was rekindled in college, when I took a course in the Old Testament taught by Rabbi Reuven Kimelman.

That was my first, eye-opening introduction to the complexity of Torah, the Prophets, the Writings, and the many layers of meaning found in our sacred texts. While living in Durham after college, I took more courses in religious studies at Duke University.

Knowledge of our traditions and history are crucial to maintaining our peoplehood. Yet, one never knows when the spark of curiosity leading to a lifetime of interest will be lit. Thus, we are fortunate in Greensboro to have so many options.

Our congregations offer courses of study from early childcare through lifelong adult learning. B’nai Shalom Day School offers a unique and comprehensive preschool through eighth grade curriculum with strong Jewish and secular studies.

In addition to providing support for these programs in various ways, the Greensboro Jewish Federation offers numerous educational opportunities, including bringing in speakers from around the world on topics such as literature, religion, politics, Israeli society and more.

For younger children, the Federation, through generous sponsors, helps to fund the PJ Library program. Though our mission program is currently on hold, travel to such places as Israel, Berlin, and Philadelphia, offer extraordinary educational opportunities – and will again in a post-COVID-19 world. Even during the pandemic, the Federation, through the P2G Hadera-Eiron partnership has offered virtual travel to Israel and Prague.

Regardless of where you are in your Jewish learning journey, read on to see what the Greensboro Jewish Federation has to offer you.

Tom Cone, President  
Greensboro Jewish Federation  
2020 - 2022



### WHAT’S INSIDE:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE	2	SAMET HONORS	9
FROM THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL	3	ON THE TOWN	10-11
JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES	4-5	COMMUNITY	12-14
B’NAI SHALOM TURNS 50	6-7	RESPECTFUL INTERACTIONS	15
JEWISH FOUNDATION OF GREENSBORO	8	UPCOMING VIRTUAL EVENTS	16

# ON MY MIND: Engraving Jewish Values

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



Marilyn Forman Chandler

In spring 2017, Robert and I sat at Duke University listening to the United Kingdom's former Chief Rabbi, Lord Rabbi Jonathan Sacks and Duke's Muslim chaplain, Imam Abdullah Antepli discussing "Civility and Difference," during a program co-sponsored by the Duke Center for Jewish Studies and the Religions. To hear the Turkish-born Imam Antepli — a self-proclaimed "recovering anti-Semite" whose early worldview was shaped by notorious propaganda such as *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, *The International Jew* by Henry Ford and *Adolf Hitler's Mein Kampf* — refer to Rabbi Sacks as a "holy man" was quite astounding.

Rabbi Sacks was quite that and more. His teachings about morality and ethics of Judaism and about how we are commanded to love G-d, neighbor and stranger, shaped how he approached his tireless work in the interfaith realm. May the memory of Rabbi Sacks, z"l be a blessing and may his family be comforted among all the mourners of Zion and the world.

I share this story about Rabbi Sacks not only because he believed so strongly in bringing together all faith leaders to build a stronger global society. I also write of him here because of his strong role in Jewish education. I have been reading for many years his *Covenant & Conversation* commentaries on the weekly Torah portion. In his own words:



Lord Rabbi Jonathan Sacks z"l

“You achieve immortality not by building pyramids or statues, but by engraving your values on the hearts of your children, and they on theirs, so that our ancestors live on in us and we in our children, and so on until the end of time.”

Indeed, this issue of *Shalom Greensboro* magazine is dedicated to the importance of Jewish education. Our Federation has been at the lead in funding Jewish

education and experiential Jewish learning for youth, young adults and our entire Jewish community. The Federation is especially grateful and proud of the tremendous work of our congregations, as well as B'nai Shalom Day School in educating our children — our daughters Dori, Hallie and Shira — and the hundreds of other children of our community.

This year, B'nai Shalom celebrates its 50th year. We look forward to its 120th year! *Hazak Hazak v'nitchazek!*



**March 2017 at Duke University**  
Imam Abdullah Antepli, Lord Rabbi Jonathan Sacks z"l, former Raleigh-Cary Federation ED Caren Savel, and Marilyn Forman Chandler

Please accept our apologies for a misprint in the *Greensboro Jewish Federation 2019/2020 Impact Report*. The following generous donors should have been included as members of the **Golden Givers Society**, and deserve proper recognition for donating to the Annual Campaign for at least 18 years: **Adele and Robert Weinstein** and **Benjamin Cone, Jr.** Their names have been added to the digital version of our *Greensboro Jewish Federation 2019/2020 Impact Report*, which can be viewed by visiting [www.shalomgreensboro.org](http://www.shalomgreensboro.org).



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# On The Campaign Trail: Jewish Education Secures L'dor V'dor

By Marissa Milstein, 2021 Campaign Co-Chair



Marissa Milstein

A theme that focuses on generational connections is especially fitting for a campaign effort led by a father-daughter duo. The fact that B'nai Shalom Day School is celebrating its 50th anniversary during this year's campaign only underscores the appropriateness of the concept.

Like so many others in the New York Jewish community of my childhood, my Jewish education began in preschool, crafting macaroni menorahs and singing along to "Who Built the Ark?" ("Noah, Noah!") and later attending Hebrew school. Soon after my family moved to Greensboro, I began attending school at B'nai Shalom.

As I think back on my education and my time at B'nai, I realize how much it shaped me. B'nai Shalom offered me the opportunity to learn basic academics, while at the same time learning about my religion and the history of the Jewish people... *my people!*

For our small Jewish community, B'nai Shalom serves as a building block for our future. What better way to truly honor *l'dor v'dor* than to recognize this amazing school for its 50 years of education and support for the future of our Jewish community.

The relationship between the Greensboro Jewish Federation and B'nai Shalom has always been strong. As an adult, I participated in the Greensboro Federation Leadership Institute (GFLI). This experience, which helped blend Jewish values into general leadership training, was incredible. It is notable that several of my classmates from B'nai Shalom were also in my GFLI cohort.

The link between our Jewish education at B'nai and our future as community leaders has been apparent from the start. It is evident that the support from our donors is strongly impacting and ensuring the future of our Jewish community.

Mazel tov on 50 years, B'nai Shalom! And thank you to our amazing, extensive community!

“For our small Jewish community, B'nai Shalom serves as a building block for our future.”

*L'dor V'dor*

HONORING THE PAST, SECURING THE FUTURE

## HOW TO PAY FOR CAMP

Paying for camp can be overwhelming. Here are some steps to make the first year possible:

**Step 1:** Find an eligible camp using the One Happy Camper website [jewishcamp.org/one-happy-camper](http://jewishcamp.org/one-happy-camper).

**Step 2:** Apply for camp.

**Step 3:** Apply for the One Happy Camper grant on the above website.

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

Jewish Family Services offers need-based scholarships. To apply for a scholarship, go to [www.jfsgreensboro.org](http://www.jfsgreensboro.org) and download the application. **Scholarship applications are due the last day of February** and notifications are made by mid-March. For information on camp scholarships, contact Betsy Gamburg (336) 852-4829 x225.

Greensboro Jewish Federation has additional grant opportunities including the Stanley Shavitz Camp Judaea Camper Incentive Fund, and the Fischer Send-A-Kid to Overnight Jewish Camp Incentive Grant Fund. First and second year camp grant opportunities are available through these funds. For more information on paying for Jewish overnight camp, contact Carly Dunno (336) 852-5433 x243.

## CONSIDERING JEWISH OVERNIGHT CAMP FOR THE FIRST TIME?

**YOUR CHILD MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR A GRANT OF UP TO \$2,250 THIS SUMMER!**



## “WHO IS RICH?”

### Those Who Rejoice in Their Own Portion.” *Pirkei Avot*

By Betsy Gamburg, Director, Jewish Family Services

As we have moved into winter, it's easy to feel the longer days and the stress of COVID-19. We know that people of all ages have been experiencing increasing anxiety, seasonal affective disorder, and depression, and that the numbers of those who are seeking out help are increasing. When things are difficult, it is a positive thing to reach out and get support from professionals, family and friends.

But, another important means of improving how we feel struck me after I recently watched a TED talk by author A.J. Jacobs, titled “My Journey to Thank All the People Responsible for My Morning Coffee.” In his search to thank everyone who was responsible for that indispensable first cup of coffee every day, he discovered over a thousand people were involved. He identified a new perspective that helped him see the world with more appreciation and gratitude.

First, look up. See who and what is in front of you. Take an extra few seconds to treat everyone like a human being. Look up from your phone and smile at the barista who is serving you. Don't allow yourself to become numb to routine.

Second, smell the roses... and the dirt and fertilizer. Savor things and see things in greater detail. Hold on to that for which you are grateful. Be mindful of the

complexity of what happens every day.

Third, find the hidden masterpieces around you. Whether it's the design of a coffee cup lid or turning on the tap for running water, our worlds are filled with things we barely think about that provide ease and comfort.

---

“Many people are involved in the simple things that make our lives easier.”

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Fourth, fake it until you feel it. Practice looking around and seeing things with new eyes. Once you start to do this, true amazement and awe can color what you see.

Finally, it not only takes a village, but the interconnectedness in the world now means it's a global village. Coffee beans grown in Brazil rely on Japanese truck manufacturers that rely on American steel workers and on and on. Many people are involved in the simple things that make our lives easier.

Let gratitude lead the way in these shorter days as we wait for spring. Let a deeper appreciation of the things that help us every day lighten the burden we are feeling in these days of COVID-19.

ARE YOU IN NEED  
BECAUSE OF  
**COVID-19?**



**Jewish Family Services**  
of Greensboro

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU.

**Application Information for COVID-19 Emergency Response Funds**

The COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund was created to help ease the financial burden of the Jewish community in Guilford County as a result of the pandemic.

If you are experiencing hardship and would like to apply for emergency funds, visit [www.jfsgreensboro.org](http://www.jfsgreensboro.org) to access application and guidelines.

Contact Betsy Gamburg (336) 852-4829 x225 to apply by telephone or if you have any questions. Betsy can be reached by email at [bgamburg@shalomgreensboro.org](mailto:bgamburg@shalomgreensboro.org).



Lori Heimann

## Neighbors In Need Volunteer Project

Lori Heimann re-initiated and organized the Neighbor In Need Volunteer Project, helping to serve the needs of the homeless. Lori mobilized volunteers to assemble bags filled with socks, mittens, packaged tuna and other helpful items. Upon completion, the bags were then delivered to Jewish Family Services for distribution to agencies who work directly with the homeless population.

## JFS FOOD PANTRY

### Named in Memory of David Frazier, z”l



“Clients and volunteers loved working with David and enjoyed his sense of humor and compassion.”

The food pantry at Jewish Family Services (JFS) is a vital community resource. For years, it was ably managed by JFS Volunteer Coordinator, David Frazier

In honor of his steadfast passion for the pantry and the clients who rely on it, the Jewish Family Services Board of Directors voted this fall to rename the facility the **David D. Frazier Food Pantry at Jewish Family Services.**

“David’s work with the pantry was always a labor of love. He felt that this part of his job was true *tikkun olam* and he always expressed gratitude for the opportunity to do this work,” said JFS Director Betsy Gamburg. “Clients and volunteers loved working with David and enjoyed his sense of humor and compassion.”

JFS continues to receive community donations to the pantry, both monetary and in-kind. Throughout this past holiday

season, the pantry received food items collected by Temple Emanuel and Beth David congregants, Temple Emanuel Brotherhood, A Simpler Gesture, High Point University Hillel and other local organizations.

In addition to serving clients during usual Thursday hours of operation, the pantry has also expanded its work to help other organizations who are providing food. Food contributions are being sent to Mustard Seed Clinic in East Greensboro, students and staff at the Spartan Open Pantry at UNCG, and The Arc of Greensboro.

But, David’s efforts made sure that the impact of the food pantry extended beyond the people it was created to serve. He always made sure that helping out at the food pantry was a fulfilling way to do mitzvot. The activity has also served as a great gateway for learning about volunteering and public service for Jewish teens in Greensboro. Local BBYO chapters have volunteered their time to work in the food pantry, checking in donated food and stocking the shelves.

Now, food pantry volunteers won’t just be helping families meet basic needs. They’ll also be honoring the memory of David D. Frazier, z”l.



# 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.

## JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES

Margaret Clark  
Steven Gittis

### In Memory:

Of: Ann Falk  
From: Joann and William Cassell  
Of: Veronica Simmons  
From: Sylvia and Mike Berkelhammer  
Of: Harriet Elrad Wilson  
From: Susan and Freddy Robinson

## BLOOD DRIVE

Barbara Jacobs

## CONGREGATIONAL NURSE FUND

### In Honor:

Of: Perry C. Henson, Jr.  
From: William A. Stern Foundation

## FOOD PANTRY

Herbert Baum  
Donna Cohen  
Bernice and Zev Harel  
Sara Hoffman  
Pat and Peter Levitin  
Barbara Scheck  
Erin Stephenson  
Lon Tytell

### In Honor:

Of: Lenny Samet’s “milestone” birthday  
From: Fran and Steve Bombart

Of: Marlene Baruch  
From: Fern and Sandy Kahn

Of: Kim and Bobby Wainer’s new granddaughter, Olivia Jo Weiss  
From: Judy Frederick and Steve Shavitz

### In Memory:

Of: Faina Bochkis  
From: Lois and Howard Mezer  
Sue and Gary Simmons  
Judy Frederick and Steve Shavitz

Of: Ann Falk  
From: Fran and Steve Bombart

Of: David Frazier  
From: Jessi Balogh  
Phyllis Shavitz

Of: Cathy Frederick  
From: Lois and Howard Mezer

Of: Rob Skirboll  
From: Fran and Steve Bombart

Of: Veronica Simmons  
From: Rose and Victor Ackermann  
Judith and David Altman

Of: Carol Wearb Tuck  
From: Fran and Steve Bombart

Of: Harriet Elrad Wilson  
From: Sue and Gary Simmons

Of: Louis Bates  
From: Judy Frederick and Steve Shavitz

Of: Robert Stuart Aronson  
From: Rose and Victor Ackermann

## COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND

Isanne and Kevin Ossey

### In Honor:

Of: Betsy Gamburg and the JFS Staff  
From: Marilyn and Robert Chandler

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

# B'NAI SHALOM AT 50

## MANY GENERATIONS, SAME HEART

BY HILLARY ZAKEN

בני שלום

If there is one thing that everyone in the Greensboro Jewish community agrees on, it's that B'nai Shalom Day School is more than just a school.

"It's full of heart," remarks Susan Siegel, Head of School. "What's not to love? I felt it the minute I walked through the doors. It didn't take long at all to see how special this school is."



Featured on the Cover:  
Becky, Dash, Mark and Hannah  
Spielman, photo courtesy of  
Andrew Bowen

"B'nai Shalom gave me the foundation that turned me into the person that I am today," says Mark Spielman, class of '97.

This year, B'nai Shalom is marking its 50th anniversary with high enrollment and a community more engaged than ever, a remarkable achievement for a small Jewish day school in a mid-sized southern city.

For Mark, who attended B'nai as a boy, the school is not just the place where his two children receive an education. It's the tight-knit community of friends who helped him get his new construction business, Holladay Construction, off the ground. It's where his wife, Becky, volunteers. And, it's where their children are cared for safely during the coronavirus pandemic.

"B'nai has always been a special place," Mark adds. "While you can live a life without community — it's impossible to live a life of purpose and fulfillment without it. B'nai Shalom gives my family that very important sense of community and belonging."

Had there not been a Jewish day school in Greensboro, the Spielman family would not have even moved to the Triad. When Mark's parents, Sylvie and Walter Spielman, were thinking of moving their three children to North Carolina nearly 40 years ago, it was B'nai Shalom that sealed the deal.

"We wouldn't have moved to Greensboro had the school not been there," Sylvie recalls. "I wanted to be near a Jewish school. B'nai Shalom was small, but with a beautiful Jewish *neshama* that made it incredibly special."

At the time, enrollment was at 57 students. The next generation of Spielman children attend a school that's grown in size to nearly 150, but has kept its spirit.

"Susan has done a really great job of keeping the culture the same, even as the school has grown," says Mark. "It's important to me that my kids are getting that same foundation."

Generations of Greensboro's Jewish families have sent their children to B'nai Shalom. The Spielmans are only one family in a multi-generational alumni network who are still friends and supporters of the school.

"B'nai Shalom is filled with deep love. It's a place where the teachers' relationships with students go beyond anything I have ever seen, and alumni and alumni parents stay friends with the school for years after graduation," says Susan. "This makes our community more like a family."

### CLOSENESS DESPITE COVID: A GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY TO REMEMBER

Keeping the community together at this challenging time, while celebrating the school's 50th anniversary might have seemed like an insurmountable barrier. After all, most B'nai traditions, like the Hanukkah show, the Thanksgiving feast, and cross-grade buddies, are impossible during a pandemic. But, small classes and a strong community of care have enabled the school to thrive even during this period.

Celebration of the school's 50th anniversary moved online, which allowed alumni from around the country to join the festivities.

Seeking ways to teach and gather safely during the pandemic, B'nai hired a nurse and introduced new health and safety measures. The administration adopted a hybrid in-school-online model to allow all children to safely attend classes. Teachers embraced Greensboro's temperate climate and brought classes outdoors.

Most of all, the school relied on the sense of family and collective responsibility within the school community to keep the students engaged, connected and healthy. Even in this time, the children at the school feel a sense of belonging and see the entire community coming together to support them.

This is the mission, and the magic, of B'nai Shalom Day School.

"B'nai Shalom is truly more than a school," Susan says lovingly. "We are a home with heart for the entire community."



“B'nai  
Shalom gives  
my family that  
very important  
sense of  
community and  
belonging”



Sylvie Spielman with her  
granddaughter, Hannah

# בני שלום

## MANY GENERATIONS IN ONE CLASSROOM



Mrs. Susanne Settle, shown with her "most obedient" students

For 50 years, B'nai Shalom has been Greensboro's community day school, educating generations of Jewish children. Susanne Settle has been there for 33 of those years, teaching and inspiring more than just a few parent-child duos.

"I will never forget one time I got in trouble, and Mrs. Settle grabbed me by the ear and marched me down the

hallway past the business office where my mother worked," recalls Mark Spielman. "My mother was there, watching and nodding approvingly."

Mrs. Settle, as she is called by students and alumni alike, now likes to tell this story to Mark's children, who attend B'nai Shalom.

"It is truly a blessing to teach a child, and then to teach that child's sons and daughters," says Mrs. Settle. "This school is incredibly special because all the teachers at B'nai, Jewish or not, are united in our purpose — to provide a Jewish education and build a warm community for these children."

Despite not being an official member of the tribe, Mrs. Settle has been warmly embraced by Greensboro's Jewish community. She's attended b'nai mitzvot, weddings and eventually britot milah of her students (and their children). She's visited sukkot and attended Passover seders.

“It is truly a blessing to teach a child, and then to teach that child's sons and daughters”

Some former students, like alumna and current B'nai parent Jessica White, teach at the school, and still stop by her classroom to say hello. And, Mrs. Settle never misses a chance to pore over old yearbooks and show her new students pictures of their parents at the same age.

"The school may have changed in some ways," said Mrs. Settle, "but the heart of B'nai Shalom is the same — still there, still beating strong in the children and in the mission."



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## FUNDING JEWISH EDUCATION

A contemporary Talmudic scholar has said that “a Jew is not someone whose grandparents are Jewish but someone who wants his or her grandchildren to be Jewish.” Effective Jewish education is the single best vehicle to ensure Jewish continuity according to a number of recent population and demographic studies.

“We are beyond fortunate to have B’nai Shalom in our small but mighty Jewish community,” notes Ellen Fischer, former faculty member and parent of an alum.

B’nai Shalom Board member, Linda Shapiro points to the fact that the school “instills pride in each child being Jewish. Upon graduation, they are poised and prepared, and perhaps the best part is the Jewish friendships that will last a lifetime.”

However, B’nai Shalom, like so many day schools throughout the country, faces a number of challenges, including added expenses of maintaining its excellent dual curriculum, longer school day, larger faculty, ever-increasing security — and, now, health-related expenses — just to name a few.

It is equally troubling to note that many studies have also concluded that ever-increasing day school tuition is not sustainable. This raises real questions as to whether

young families in today’s Jewish community will be able to afford the rising cost of Jewish education.

The Jewish Foundation of Greensboro remains committed to doing its part to ensure that B’nai Shalom remains the jewel within our community that it has been for 50 years. Numerous individuals and

families are stepping up to help the school achieve its ambitious 50th anniversary fundraising and endowment building goals.

As B’nai Shalom Board member, Peggy Bernstein, puts it, “It is incumbent upon all of us to ensure that Jewish life continues to thrive. There is no better way to do that than through educating our children and there is no better place than B’nai Shalom.”

“It is incumbent upon all of us to ensure that Jewish life continues to thrive.”

For more information on ways the Foundation can help support B’nai Shalom, please contact Susan Gutterman, JD at [SGutterman@JewishfoundationNC.org](mailto:SGutterman@JewishfoundationNC.org) or (336) 852-0099.

### The Lawrence M. Cohen Scholars



Gabriel Singerman

The Lawrence M. Cohen Endowment Fund and the Greensboro Jewish Foundation are proud to announce **Gabriel Singerman** and **Addie Dunno** as the **2020-2021 Lawrence M. Cohen Scholars**.

Addie and Gabriel are model B’nai Shalom Day School students. Always kind to fellow classmates and teachers, Addie, 5th grade, is a good friend, student and an athlete. Sweet and intuitive, Gabriel, 7th grade, never fails to add a friendly disposition to his classroom.



Addie Dunno

The scholarships honor the memory of Lawrence M. Cohen, z”l, a beloved leader in the Greensboro Jewish community, who considered education, Israel and the welfare of the Jewish people his personal priorities. His generous gift endows the survival of Jewish heritage and religion by supporting Jewish education.



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- Engage younger generations in exploring their philanthropic interests
- Craft a philanthropic succession plan designating your children or grandchildren, or your favorite charities, or a combination of both

For more information on Donor Advised Funds, please contact Susan Gutterman, JD at [SGutterman@JewishfoundationNC.org](mailto:SGutterman@JewishfoundationNC.org) or (336) 852-0099.

# Sylvia and Norman Samet Recognized as Outstanding Philanthropists

The NC Triad chapter of Association of Fundraising Professionals recognized Sylvia and Norman “Norm” Samet with the Outstanding Philanthropist – Greensboro Award during the organization’s National Philanthropy Day this past November.

“We feel so blessed in so many ways. Our way of life is to give to others less fortunate than we are,” says Sylvia. “Giving gives me a feeling of happiness. It is the greatest act of grace.”

Sylvia and Norm are no strangers to annual campaigns and leadership initiatives in the Greensboro Jewish community. But, their attention, generosity and energy are often directed to other deserving local organizations. Indeed, the Samets were nominated for the honor by University of North Carolina, Greensboro Chancellor, Dr. Franklin Gilliam specifically for their history of supporting and funding educational opportunities for the younger generations.

With the help of the Samets’ daughter, Leslye, Chancellor and Mrs. Gilliam arranged a dinner with Sylvia and Norm a few weeks ago to surprise them with the award.

“Norman and Sylvia Samet are effective community leaders because they’re never satisfied with the status quo. They are never satisfied resting on their laurels,” says Chancellor Gilliam.

Their list of contributions to UNCG, alone, is impressive. They created the prestigious Herman and Zelda Bernard Professorship in Jewish Studies and were the founding donors of the Henry Samuel Levinson Program Endowment in Jewish Studies. Sylvia and Norm were the co-chairs of UNCG’s Students First Campaign from 2004 through 2009, inspiring 22,000 donors to exceed campaign goals by \$37 million. They also established the Norman G. Samet and Sylvia Lichtin Samet International Education Fund to attract the highest quality of students to UNCG’s Joseph M. Bryan School of Business.

“They’ve endowed chairs. They’ve endowed the Beard professorships. They’ve endowed the Levinson lecture series. They have served on boards,” adds the Chancellor. “They have just been wonderful friends to the university.”

“I frequently count my blessings and take pleasure in knowing that I can help someone in need,” says Norm.



Sylvia and Norman Samet

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# ON THE TOWN

## CHEF MICHAEL SOLOMONOV Makes Latke-Making Look Easy



On Wednesday, December 2, the Greensboro Jewish community and thousands of others across the United States came together to attend a virtual cooking class led by world-renowned chef Michael Solomonov. The event was a Chanukah gift from the Greensboro Jewish Federation, the Jewish Foundation of Greensboro and Jewish Family Services.



Solomonov opened his home kitchen to viewers to share tips for making delicious Chanukah recipes. The menu for the evening, sent out ahead of time, consisted of apple shrub, potato latkes, Roman artichokes, poached salmon and Sfenj (Moroccan

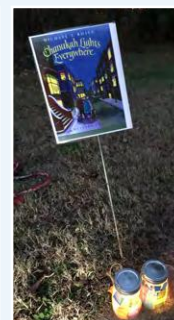
doughnuts) with cinnamon and sugar.

“Those artichokes looked perfectly cooked!” said Alyssa Samet. “I enjoyed learning about new ideas for my Chanukah recipe collection.”

For those who preferred to watch the expert cook while eating, the Painted Plate catered the three-course meal for purchase and pickup at the Federation in advance of the event.

Born in Israel, Solomonov is famous for his Israeli recipes and restaurants in the Philadelphia area. The opportunity to be with Solomonov in his own kitchen was one worth remembering.

Plans are in the works for another cooking class shortly before Purim.



On a crisp, December evening, what could be better than a nice stroll in the park? Maybe a delicious cup of hot chocolate to ward off the chill, during a lantern-lit outing with family.

That’s what took place at Brown Bark Park during the Chanukah Lantern Walk with PJ Library just before the winter holidays arrived.

Families with young children brought their home-made lanterns and used them to light the way on a special Story Walk that displayed the book “Chanukah Lights Everywhere.” The socially distanced walk celebrated the lights of the season against the backdrop of a picture perfect winter evening. For making it through the breezy journey, ample rewards were served by the Wired Coffee Truck to book-lovers both big and small.



Families were provided a DIY Chanukah lantern kit with a Mason Jar, tea light, tissue paper & twine.



# YOU ANSWERED THE CALL



There's no slowing down the 2021 Campaign. Following a seamless virtual campaign kickoff just days before, the team was back in action Sunday, December 13. Co-chaired by Ron Garcia and Mark Bochkis, the Virtual Matching

Gift Telethon brought together volunteers from all over the Jewish community to help Federation supporters take advantage of several generous matching programs.

Unlike years past, there were no enticing offers of bagels, coffee and snacks to help draw a crowd to Federation offices. But, volunteers showed up online anyway.

"We don't see not being able to be together as a problem," says Ron. "We take it as an opportunity to expand and diversify our outreach methods."

True to form, the team deployed nimble cloud solutions, including an on-going Zoom session to foster camaraderie and report pledges, and a web-based shared spreadsheet — tools many in the community have learned to embrace in the past year.

Thank you to everyone who pitched in to make the telethon a success, and to everyone who answered the call. Your support of the Greensboro Jewish Federation ensures that our community has everything it needs to thrive.

# HONORS FOR UNCG HILLEL



Vicki Cathcart

As North Carolina Hillel's Director of Student Life, Vicki Cathcart stays busy looking out for the needs of Jewish college students at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro and Guilford College. Dedicated and passionate, she works to clear the path to success for every student she meets.

Her passion has paid off, and people have taken notice of her contributions.

The Greensboro Jewish Federation is proud to recognize Vicki as the recipient of the 2020 UNCG Division of Student Affairs Partnership Award. This honor is bestowed upon a person or department for their outstanding collaborative efforts with UNCG Student Affairs.



## The Greensboro Jewish Federation 2021 Campaign Kickoff Event

A CONVERSATION  
WITH

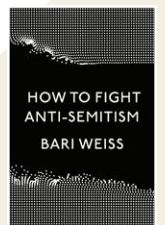
# Bari Weiss

The first ever virtual Campaign Kickoff took place Wednesday, December 9th, with more than 145 households coming together to celebrate the beauty of a small yet powerful southern Jewish community. Headlining speaker, Bari Weiss, provided thought-provoking perspective to a wide range of issues that have come to a head in 2020.



Bari Weiss

To start the night, attendees showed their *I'dor v'dor* through artistic sketches and watched the ever powerful "Why I am a Jew" by Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, z"l. Sue Simmons, chair of the newly formed Jewish Community Relations Committee, posed questions to Weiss on the subjects of racial equity, allyship, and anti-Semitism in America.



Thanks to co-chairs Victoria Milstein and Amanda Loflin, the evening was a fabulous success.

A portion of the event's ticket proceeds were committed to funding the work of the newly established Jewish Community Relations Committee, which aims to build cross-cultural relationships and promote social justice in Greensboro, the United States, Israel and beyond.

# COMMUNITY

## CFJS Seniors Adapt and Thrive with Virtual Events



This was a tough year for many members of the Carolina Foundation for Jewish Seniors (CFJS) community. While the coronavirus pandemic was setting in, no one knew what to expect, or how long quarantining, shut-downs, and other safety measures would last.

But, now that a vaccine is imminent, there's reason to feel more optimistic — especially for seniors, who face higher medical risks in any public health emergency.

Through all of the uncertainty, many have found resilience they never thought they had. Jewish seniors all over the state have adapted in new ways, continuing their personal enrichment on virtual platforms. They've embraced curiosity and scholarly endeavors, as they know that one's mind doesn't stop learning because one is homebound. CFJS-sponsored educational and social programs have helped, offering participants entertainment, camaraderie and intellectual stimulation.

The multitude of programs facilitated by CFJS provided numerous opportunities for needed social engagement for Jewish seniors across North Carolina. CFJS was able to quickly adapt, pivoting its calendar to virtual offerings, including art classes, cooking classes, discussion groups, exercise classes, Shabbat services, travel adventures, Torah study and other activities that helped to connect everyone. Some seniors joined programs and made friends in other communities. Such resilience and yearning to learn and engage is inspiring.

The idea of everyone being back together again soon is comforting. But, new skills gained during pandemic sequestration may just prove to be time well spent. After all, grandkids love that screen time.

If you would like to share a story, make a contribution or want more information, email Wendee Cutler, [wcutler@carolinajewishseniors.org](mailto:wcutler@carolinajewishseniors.org), call (336) 854-8400, or visit Carolina Foundation for Jewish Seniors at [www.carolinajewishseniors.org](http://www.carolinajewishseniors.org).

## At BETH DAVID, Jewish Education Is for Life



Whether the goal is to learn to read Hebrew, to shine light on the modern day relevance of Pirkei Avot, or to engage in text study to gain a deeper understanding of the rabbinic mind, the adult education offerings at Beth David this season meet the diverse needs of the congregation's population.

According to Director of Education, Jason Cathcart, the synagogue leadership has intentionally created a variety of educational options that will not only inspire students of all knowledge levels and backgrounds but also be relevant to their everyday lives.

"Our goal is to listen to the members of our community and offer classes that are stimulating and engaging," Jason explains. "At the same time, we look at the world around us and bring learning opportunities that we believe will be interesting and topical to learners."

This year, many of these opportunities are innovative in a new way, as the congregation pivoted to face the new demands of creating community and engaging in lifelong Jewish learning during a pandemic. The synagogue began utilizing Zoom as a learning platform early on and has also expanded into social media posts and podcasts.

Current offerings at Beth David include the popular "Hebrew in a Day," Rabbi Ben-Gideon's Pirkei Avot podcast, "Mishnah in a Moment," and weekly Torah and Talmud study.

Beth Socol participates in the Talmud class to learn the wisdom of the sages and also to stay connected with her synagogue community.

"I study Talmud because it is endlessly fascinating. It is wisdom — and still applicable to us some 2000 years later," shares Beth. "Studying with my friends and rabbi at Beth David helps me feel connected to my community in these days of social isolation. Rabbi Ben-Gideon 'keeps it real', and encourages all of us to question the text and to connect its teachings to our lives today."

For more information about lifelong learning opportunities at Beth David, please visit the congregation's website at [www.bethdavidsynagogue.org](http://www.bethdavidsynagogue.org).

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**“The adult education offerings at Beth David this season meet the diverse needs of the congregation’s population.”**

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**“Through all of the uncertainty, many have found resilience they never thought they had.”**

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# TEMPLE EMANUEL Embraces New Style of Adult Education



Adult education continues to thrive at Temple Emanuel. And, it's happening despite the coronavirus pandemic's ongoing impact on the way members of the congregation live, worship and engage with one another.

Through *Sages to Ages*, a six-week educational program, congregants of Greensboro's Temple Emanuel found a great way to stay connected to their culture and gain a bit of knowledge in the process. For two hours on Tuesday mornings this past October and November, participants gathered in front of their respective computer screens to learn about a range of interesting Jewish topics.

Underwritten by the Carolina Foundation for Jewish Seniors, the program was the result of several North Carolina Reform congregations joining forces



to provide an engaging and meaningful educational experience. In fact, participating congregations logged on from all over the state, including Judea Reform Congregation in Durham and Temple Beth Or in Raleigh.

Those in attendance enjoyed a thought-provoking series of classes on topics such as "The Greatest Teachings from Our Greatest Teachers," "Taboo Jew: Your Body and You" and "Paradigm Shifts — Jewish responses to Difficult Times."

Rabbi Mark Cohn from Temple Emanuel in Winston-Salem led a session titled "Israeli Music — How Jewish Is It?"

"*Sages to Ages* has been a great time to meet new people and share some of my favorite teachings," says Rabbi Cohn.

"We're excited about combining Jewish study with friends, old and new, from places near and far throughout our great state," said Rabbi Andy Koren from Greensboro's Temple Emanuel. "There is more to come."

Indeed, plans are being made for another round of *Sages to Ages* to take place in 2021.

"Certainly, none of us would have ever envisioned an educational endeavor like this prior to COVID-19," said Rabbi Fred Guttman. "However, given their significant success, programs like these are definitely worth keeping in the post COVID-19 Jewish world."

Thanks to the enduring traits of learning and adaptation, the Jewish people have always found a way through the darker times in our history, never failing to pick up new tricks along the way. And, new tricks are definitely needed in this unprecedented time.

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## Zooming Towards Excellence in Adult Education



One can say it's the silver lining of the isolation the pandemic has wrought. Sitting side-by-side in their sunroom, Sharon and Joel Heller enjoy several Zoom Torah classes every week, increasing their Jewish knowledge, understanding and engagement.

"I began participating in Jewish Learning Institute with Rabbi Plotkin four years ago," says Joel, a retired medical physician, who has lived in Greensboro since 1976. "I was surprised by how relatable and normal the rabbi is, not at all the stereotype I had expected for an Orthodox rabbi."

Since the pandemic, with extra time on their hands, the couple has been "attending" Plotkin's classes together, enjoying his weekly Pirkei Avot lessons, Parsha discussions and pre-Shabbat "l'chaim" sessions.

As a result, they have increased their Jewish observance in small ways, including making Shabbat candles and Friday night dinner a more regular fixture in their home.

"There isn't a question you cannot ask, and the rabbi will spend as much time as you need to get the answer," says Joel. "He's able to take the Torah's teachings and bring them into modern-day America."

Since the shutdown began in March, Chabad of Greensboro has taken their acclaimed adult-education program online, and expanded their offerings to include out-of-town presenters as well as enhanced offerings from Rabbi and Mrs. Plotkin.

While Zoom education does have its limitations, Rabbi Plotkin says that the fact that people can attend from the comfort of their homes is a boon to people with disabilities and caregivers.

"But at the end of the day," he concludes, "I'm hoping and praying for the day when we will be able to return to in-person instruction, and also provide an online option for those that prefer it, taking all we've learned during the pandemic and making it work for us then as well."

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**“Since the shutdown began in March, Chabad of Greensboro has taken their acclaimed adult-education program online”**

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## Jewish Learning Becomes a Way of Life



Everyone's Jewish learning journey is different, and there are all sorts of paths. After all, not everyone who ends up leading a Jewish way of life starts out that way.

For JTriad board member Genay Peavey, the journey started at Temple Emanuel's Saturday morning Torah study. These reflective mornings were a sprightly beginning.



Genay Peavey

Genay began Torah study as part of her own spiritual journey. She felt welcomed on her quest to learn more about Judaism, and instantly felt at home with the group. The manner of discussion was new and exhilarating.

Genay was amazed by congregants who frequently brought up alternative viewpoints to the texts, were not afraid to question the Rabbi, and were able to disagree with one another in a reasoned and respectful way. These conversations brought about learning for everyone in the room — or Zoom screen.

"The more I learn, the more I find out I don't know, and then the desire to learn only increases," says Genay.

Somewhere during those sessions, Genay decided that becoming Jewish was something that she wanted to do. The next step was initiating her conversion process via intensive study of Judaism through Melton adult education courses. Along the way, Genay began to form deeper friendships with her classmates. The texts and the depth of discussions that materialized during class were easy to bond over.

But, even as she was learning so much, Genay knew that there was something missing. She yearned for connections with Jews closer to her own age. When she mentioned this desire to her classmates, they suggested she check out JTriad. Shortly after, she attended her first virtual event and quickly became a regular at the weekly trivia nights.

Genay recently completed her conversion to Judaism and knows that this is just the beginning of her lifelong learning journey. And, she's happy to continue learning from her new JTriad friends and greater Jewish community.

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.

# J<sup>D</sup>A<sup>M</sup> Jewish Disability Advocacy Month

## February 2021

## RESPECTFUL INTERACTIONS: People-First Language and Etiquette

To be seen as a person of integrity and worth is a goal in life. Achieving that goal is harder for some, as ignorance and insensitivity interfere with the fundamental principle that all individuals are created in the divine image. About 54 million Americans — one out of every five individuals — have a disability. Their contributions to our communities provide rich diversity.

**February is Disability Advocacy Month**, which makes it an appropriate time to reflect on how to treat people with differing abilities.

To begin, People First Language (PFL) is a way of communicating that strives to put the person before the disability. PFL uses phrases such as “person with a disability,” “individuals with disabilities,” and “children with disabilities,” as opposed to phrases that identify people based only on their disability, such as “the disabled.” Though this can be subtle, language is a powerful tool in showing respect.

Also, every individual is capable of love, compassion, and helpfulness. Recognizing this allows those without disabilities to understand that sometimes efforts to help should first be given permission. When in doubt, just ask if help is needed. Find opportunities for those with disabilities to give back and to contribute.

To learn more about inclusion for people with disabilities, please visit the website of an organization with a local Greensboro office such as:

- The Arc of Greensboro, [www.thearc.org](http://www.thearc.org)
- The Special Olympics of North Carolina, [www.SONC.net](http://www.SONC.net)
- The Autism Society of North Carolina, [www.autismsociety-nc.org](http://www.autismsociety-nc.org)

## Federation Welcomes New Staff Member



Julia Watkins

The Greensboro Jewish Federation is pleased to welcome **Julia Watkins**, Communications Specialist, as the newest member of the Marketing team. Julia comes to Federation from Greensboro College, where she served as the Director of Recruitment and Communication.

Julia attended the University of South Carolina, where she received a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism and Mass Communications and a Master’s Degree in Higher Education.

Originally from Charleston, South Carolina, she and her husband moved to Greensboro in 2019. Together, they have a dog named Leo and are enjoying all that the city has to offer. She brings a robust, fresh perspective to the organization and is excited to work closely with the community. Julia can be reached at [jwatkins@shalomgreensboro.org](mailto:jwatkins@shalomgreensboro.org).



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# J<sup>D</sup>A<sup>M</sup> Jewish Disability Advocacy Month

## Jewish Disability Advocacy Month February 2021

From communities across North America, we are coming together to harness our collective power to advance policy that empowers individuals with disabilities to achieve maximum independence.

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Learn advocacy strategies and take action to put the rights of people with disabilities squarely on the policy agenda of the Biden administration and the 117th Congress.

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# virtual visions

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



Stay connected to YOUR Greensboro Jewish community through virtual events

**GREENSBORO JEWISH FEDERATION** helps you stay in touch through technology! The **Virtual Visions page at [www.shalomgreensboro.org](http://www.shalomgreensboro.org)** is your one-stop connection to virtual events hosted by the Federation and our Greensboro Jewish community. For more ways to stay involved and connected, follow the Greensboro Jewish Federation on Facebook and Instagram.



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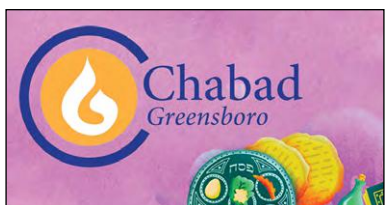
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Chabad  
Greensboro

**CHABAD GREENSBORO** is hosting a slew of online events to cheer each other up, be inspired and celebrate! Be sure to have access to a Zoom account, where much of this will be taking place and follow Chabad on Facebook to see our broadcasts. Visit the Virtual Chabad Center at [www.chabadgreensboro.com](http://www.chabadgreensboro.com) for the latest on all upcoming events.

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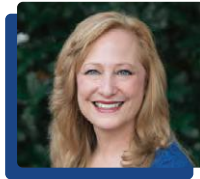
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