

SHALOM

GREENSBORO



Exploring Our Jewish Identity

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Connection, Resilience, and Belonging in Greensboro



John Cohen

The 2024 Fiscal year ends June 30, and I'm excited to review our successes with you. We have made a vital difference for our local community and around the world.

Israel Emergency Fund: We raised more than \$1.2M specifically for the benefit of Israel in response to the October 7 attack from Hamas.

New Leadership: Our "Hall of Fame" director Marilyn Chandler retired in October 2023, and we were able to successfully recruit and on board a future "Hall of Famer," Glenda Bernhardt, a committed professional who is thoughtful and ambitious. Sue Simmons and Jenny Kaiser led a committed team of volunteers on the Search Committee.

Increased Allocatable Funds for Annual Campaign: After a rigorous review of all internal programs, we made tough choices that will result in an increase of funds available for allocations. Budget discipline is an important responsibility of the Federation, and I am proud to report that this is one of our strengths.

Our Volunteer Base is Expanding: There are many regular volunteers who make Federation a priority. You know them! There are also a few rising stars you may not know as well who contributed greatly in 2024. The following represent the future of our Federation: Jeremy Reiskind, Hannah Kaye, Matt Slaine, Michele Slaine, Lacie Katz Burton, Ron Yardenay, Beth Mannella, Molly Brenner Harbaugh, Raffi Simel, and Rachel Pront. I apologize —I am sure I have left off a few — but please know we are working hard to transition Federation leadership to a new generation.

Enhanced Financial Security by Increasing Endowment Funds: Your philanthropic partnership with the Jewish Foundation is an investment in our community's future. The Foundation currently has over \$98M under management and of this more than \$10.6M is invested by the Federation through unrestricted, designated and campaign endowments. Close to 10% of our Annual Campaign is supported by PACE and LOJE funds and many gifts are made each year through Donor Advised Funds held at the Foundation. Help us grow this percentage!

The best is yet to be. It has been an honor to serve as Federation President. I am proud to hand off the leadership responsibility to Jenny Kaiser, who will serve as our President for the next two years. Jenny combines a burning desire to help others with a no-nonsense approach to problem solving. She already has the vision for a new strategic plan and a renaissance for our Annual Campaign. From her work at B'nai Shalom Day School, Beth David Synagogue and the Women's Holocaust Memorial "She Wouldn't Take Off Her Boots", Jenny knows our community well and will be a gifted leader.

Thank you for the honor of serving as Federation President for the past two years. It has been fun and rewarding.

John Cohen, President
Greensboro Jewish Federation
2022-2024



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A VIBRANT TAPESTRY: A Journey of Discovery in Jewish Greensboro

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



Glenda Bernhardt

When I think about my Jewish identity, it's hard to narrow the focus to just a few things. My Jewish identity is about peoplehood, culture, food, language, family, tradition, memory, rituals, history, prayer, community, Zionism. This list goes on. And that is what I think makes Judaism and the Jewish people so beautiful, so worth celebrating. The Jewish community is not a monolith. Jews represent rich and deep diversity of thought, practice, experiences, and passions. And yet, we are bound together by core components of identity that create a sense of togetherness and unity that is wonderful to behold.

When I reflect on the moments that shaped the Jewish adult I've become, I think about Jewish summer camp, Passover seders, trips to Israel, marching in the streets with my parents (and then my children) for just causes, studying ancient and modern texts to discover meaning to guide my words and actions. I think about laughing with friends, arguing with *chavruta* (learning) partners, crying from both sorrow and joy with loved ones during countless services, lifecycle events, and holiday celebrations. I think about the values that have shaped the professional pathway I've chosen — *tzedek* (justice), *tikun olam* (repair of the world), *gemilut hasadim* (acts of loving kindness). And I think about my favorite piece of wisdom from *Pirkei Avot* (Ethics of Our Fathers):

Lo alecha ham'lacha ligmor v'lo ata ben chorin l'hibateil mimena.
"It is not your duty to complete the work, but neither are you free to desist from it."

This is what motivates me every day — The desire to be a part of the Jewish story and to do my part to positively contribute to Jewish life and the Jewish people.

As I continue to get to know the Greensboro Jewish community, it is a pleasure to discover all the ways Jewish individuals, families, and organizations have expressed their Jewish identities here over decades and decades. I've witnessed the joy of Jewish children learning together at B'nai Shalom Day School, I've watched dedicated volunteers serve people with compassion and dignity at our David D. Frazier Food Pantry each week, I've joined colleagues and volunteers at City Council meetings and in the North Carolina State Legislature to advocate on behalf of issues that matter to our Jewish community, and I've had the privilege to ask some of you to support our vibrant Jewish community through your philanthropic dollars.

These are all celebrations of Jewish identity and I revel in their diversity. I'm so excited to experience more examples of all the ways our Greensboro Jewish community "does Jewish" in the coming months and years. And I'm excited to discover new opportunities to strengthen the Greensboro Jewish community and create new ways to bring our community together to experience beautiful expressions of Jewish identity.

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



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On The Campaign Trail: Community Support Surpasses Goal

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



Gary Bargebuhr



Michele Gordon

In the fall of 2023, our Annual Campaign team took a slight pause as our Federation focused its attention to raise money for the Israel Emergency Fund. This special drive was an opportunity to exemplify our Jewish value of *Kol Yisrael Arevim Ze Bezev*, each Jew responsible for one another. Your willingness to donate money to humanitarian relief in Israel

led us to surpass the community goal set by Jewish Federations of North America.

At the start of 2024, community members stepped up in a myriad of ways to assist with the Annual Campaign. You have recognized that we need to have a strong local Federation in order for our Greensboro Jewish Federation to run successful emergency campaigns.

Thank you for your support of the Annual Campaign this past year, whether it was through donations of your time, your expertise, and/or your money. Thank you for participating in telethons and volunteering to contact donors. Your attendance at programs and events builds Jewish community. We invite you as always to maintain your support with your gift of your effort and/or your financial resources. Together, we will continue to uphold our Jewish values and **do good that goes everywhere**.

Want to make a pledge, but don't know how to start? Here are some tips.

Individual Retirement Account (IRA) owners age 70½ or over can transfer up to \$100,000 to charity tax-free each year.

These transfers, known as qualified charitable distributions or QCDs, offer eligible Americans a great way to easily give to charity before the end of the year. And for those who are at least 73 years old, QCDs count toward the IRA owner's required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year.

Any IRA owner who wishes to make a QCD for 2024 should contact their IRA trustee to complete the transaction before the end of the year. Normally, distributions from a traditional IRA are taxable when received. With a QCD, however, these distributions become tax-free if they're paid directly from the IRA to an eligible charitable organization.

The QCD option is available regardless of whether an eligible IRA owner itemizes deductions on Schedule A. Transferred amounts are not taxable, and no deduction is available for the transfer. For more information contact your tax advisor, your retirement account trustee, or visit IRS.gov.



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

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



Bring your family, grab your sunscreen, and join us for frozen fun in the sun at Popsicles in the Park. With a PJ Library book reading, there's something for everyone to enjoy! Register to join us at shalomgreensboro.org.

POPSICLES *in the* PARK

Sunday, June 2 • Sunday, July 14 • Sunday, August 4 • 9-11 a.m. • Cascade Park in Greensboro

JFS VAN CREATES INDEPENDENCE AND CONNECTION TO COMMUNITY

When is a van more than a van?

When the van brings independence.

The JFS van allows those with mobility issues to have access to transportation without feeling they are “burdening” friends or loved ones with requests for assistance. By using the van, people retain personal power and the independence to set their own schedules for appointments.



When the van forms social connections.

The JFS van enables users to build and maintain vital relationships within the Jewish community. Social connections enrich people’s lives. Transportation from the van can mean the difference between attending a function and being a part of the community or being forced to stay at home, isolated. The van allows people to attend programs such as the Jewish Film Festival, enjoy a Brunch-and-Learn, or volunteer their time to make others’ lives better.

When the van supports spiritual connections.

The JFS van is regularly used for shul and for Torah study, but it has served other spiritual needs. The wheelchair lift means those who may have difficulty walking can join their family for events of great personal significance. The emotional impact of being present for the unveiling of a loved one’s headstone is something no one should have to miss.

JFS is so grateful to all who came out to support the van at the *Together, We Shine* event at Schiffman’s Jewelers. It was a delightful evening full of good conversation, great food, sparkling jewelry, and wonderful giveaways.

The JFS van is an invaluable resource for meeting the physical, social, and spiritual needs of the community. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has made this service possible.

Van drivers are the backbone of this essential service. Without their expertise and commitment, it simply couldn’t operate. If you’re passionate about making a difference in people’s lives, we encourage you to reach out to JFS Director Alicia Kaplan at (336) 852-4829 to learn how to join the JFS team as a driver. Together, let’s continue to empower individuals and strengthen our community bonds through the vital service of the JFS van.

The bright white van with the blue JFS logo has been serving older adults and those with disabilities since 2005.

Many people generously donated to make affordable van service available, including the **Strasser family**, who helped launch the first van service, **Gene Baruch**, who made it possible for the agency to provide free transportation for religious services, and **Caroline Panzer**, who has generously underwritten the cost of a van ride, greatly reducing the fare for riders.

Since 2005, JFS Vans have traveled **400,000 miles**, assisting **500+** older adults and disabled passengers with nearly **27,000 rides**.

Nearly **200,000 miles** have been logged on the current van since its purchase in 2015.

“The JFS van is an invaluable resource for meeting the physical, social, and spiritual needs of the community.”



Jewish Family Services
of Greensboro



JFS INAUGURAL BOOK SWAP

JOIN US
SUNDAY, JUNE 30, 2024
1 – 3 P.M. AT JFS

JAZZ BAND DELIGHTS SENIORS



The JFS Chai Notes program, sponsored by the Sephardic Foundation on Aging, hosted a swell Jazz Big Band concert in March with Gate City and Winston-Salem New Horizons Band.

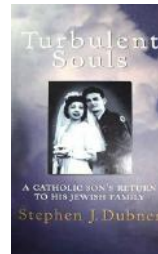


It was a dynamite afternoon of music provided by seniors, for seniors. Dessert, dancing, and even some vintage costumes made for a jumpin' good time for all the Hepcats and Jitterbugs who came out.



check it out

The Greensboro Jewish Library



Turbulent Souls by Stephen Dubner

Turbulent Souls is an intimate memoir of a man in search of a Jewish heritage he never knew he had. Dubner (of *Freakonomics*) gives a personal account of his family and their tumultuous journey from Judaism to Catholicism – and in his own case, back to Judaism.

His parents were Jews, born in Brooklyn to immigrant parents, but – independent of each other and, indeed, before they met – each converted to Christianity, only to be shunned by their families.

Stephen Dubner tells a story of discovery: of relatives he never knew existed, of family history he'd never learned, and of a faith he'd never thought of as his own. It's a fascinating and thought-provoking exploration of a subject of intense interest to spiritually-minded people everywhere.

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

FRESH FOOD FOR THE PANTRY



A lot of the “heavy lifting” at JFS is done by volunteers. Without their dedication, staff wouldn't have time to create programming, organize the new Mitzvah Day (Yom Tikun Olam), or serve the

community through the David D. Frazier Food Pantry.

Every week, JFS receives bagels that are donated from New Garden Bagels. And due to the generosity of local grocery stores, JFS collects produce from Second Harvest Food Bank at no cost. But moving those donations through the food pantry takes extra work.

Volunteer Lon Tytell comes every Wednesday to bag up these bagels and produce for distribution the next morning. But JFS needed a way to store perishables overnight. Donors to the rescue!

JFS was gifted a refrigerator by a handful of donors who pulled together to make it happen. Donors also provided coolers to get the produce from the refrigerator to the pantry, which operates outside the building due to security concerns. All these supporting resources cost money, and without donors, the whole project would not be possible.

All these acts help repair the world—our little world in Greensboro.



Volunteers Steve Scheck, Murielle, Paula Justice, and Ken Stiles



A huge thank you to Miriam Brannon-Reutter with Girl Scout Troop 10191 for donating 25 pounds of cookies



Volunteers Paula Katz and Erica Herman



Volunteers Lon Tytell and David Weiner



What Draws Us Together:

What does it mean to be Jewish? Is it family? Is it religion? Is it tradition or culture? Or maybe it's all the above. Being Jewish is ingrained into how many of us live our lives, raise our families, and interact with one another.

“No matter where we started, all of us found our way to the Greensboro Jewish community.”

Our Jewish identity colors the way we engage with the greater community around us. Some of us were raised religiously observant, or kept kosher at home, or went to Jewish day school. Others didn't know we were Jewish until someone told us we were. Still others came to awareness of our identity with a sudden shock, confronted with adversity or a life event that we didn't understand.

No matter where we started, all of us found our way to the Greensboro Jewish community.

Here, we can feel at home and savor our diversity, our interconnected culture, and our love for the world and the people surrounding us.

To highlight the richness of our Jewish experience in Greensboro, we interviewed six people who represent different generations, lifestyles, and family backgrounds. Their experiences and their thoughts create a beautiful collage of the ways their Jewish identity has shaped their lives.



Abraham Grim

Abraham Grim is eight years old, with deep, dark eyes and the bloom of a life lived outdoors. He homesteads south of town with his parents and three older sisters, observing Jewish agricultural laws and milking cows by hand into a pail every morning. Abraham's whole family came to the Jewish faith in 2020 after a spiritual journey that started long before he was born. He is already conscious of the special character of Jewish identity. "It feels good to be

Jewish," Abraham said. "Not a lot of people are Jewish in the world, so I feel lucky to be Jewish."



Lynda Weitzman

Lynda Weitzman appreciated her Jewish community where she was raised in a mixed neighborhood in the Bronx. Because most of the Irish and Italian children went to parochial school, Lynda had many Jewish friends in her public school. "I must have gone to 15 bar mitzvahs in a year!" she said. "My mother would have the neighborhood kids come in for Hanukkah, and she would give them gelt and we would light the candles."

That strong communal sense eventually passed on to her son, who is now raising his own children to be connected to their Jewish identity.

Lynda is relatively new to Greensboro, having moved here with her husband David in August 2020. Volunteerism is also important to her sense of Jewish community. After the pandemic eased, she first engaged with the Foundation through the book club, then jumped into the day of community service called Yom Tikun Olam.



Chloe Mandel first came to Greensboro to attend the American Hebrew Academy. After some time in graduate school in the Northeast, she returned here to settle with her husband Eric. This spring, they welcomed their newborn son, Oliver.



Chloe and Eric Mandel with Oliver

Both Chloe and Eric have always found a haven in Jewish community. Chloe grew up in Montana with only a tiny Jewish population. She went to a Jewish summer camp in Indiana and remembers crying when she left because she would have to go back and be the only Jew in her school.

The Heart of Jewish Identity

BY SHIRA SNYDER



ON THE COVER



Photography courtesy of Andrew Bowen Studios

Abraham Grim is always thinking about how things work and loves to solve engineering problems. He easily picks up the energy of the room and does his best to lighten the mood, but he will spend hours and hours alone mixing 'science experiments' and building with found materials.

"And that's how I ended up going to the American Hebrew Academy," Chloe said. "So much of what I yearned for was to be around other Jewish kids growing up."

Eric also felt the need for a Jewish setting, even though he grew up in a much more Jewish area in Westchester, NY. "I had my public-school friends, and then I had my Hebrew school friends. There was somewhere Jewish where you could go, where you didn't have to hide it."

Honoring their heritage, Eric and Chloe gave their baby the Hebrew name Avram Moshe, which Eric explained in his speech at the bris. "My hope is that he will have the resilience of Abraham, but the vision of Moses. Just to be able to endure, because who knows what is going to come next for us and for him. But also to see the beauty and the miracles of everyday life."

“For me, being Jewish means taking care of the world and everyone in it.”



Natasha Kobeleva

Natasha Kobeleva and her family came originally from Russia and Ukraine. She faced many hardships and antisemitism while growing up in the Soviet Union, then moved to a new country with nothing but one suitcase. "We came to the USA in September 1998," Kobeleva said. "Ten years later, I began to work at Temple Emanuel. Temple

is much more than a place of employment — it is a part of my family. Looking back, I don't know how I could have survived without the constant support, understanding, and compassion of everyone, of the rabbis, during the hardest days of my life when my parents were seriously ill and finally passed away."

The Greensboro Jewish community welcomed Kobeleva and her family with open arms and helped her find a job and a home.



Brooklyn Flatt

Brooklyn Flatt grew up in Greensboro and is still fully engaged in her Jewish community. Her passion for healing the world shapes her whole life. "For me, being Jewish means taking care of the world and everyone in it," Brooklyn said. "It means making sure that everyone who needs a voice has one. It means standing up for what is right and never giving hatred a chance to prevail." Brooklyn believes that the intense desire for a just world is the heart of Judaism.

"It's what keeps us grounded together as a community and, for me, what guides my every choice in life," she said.



These are only a few members of our diverse community, but one thing stands out in all their stories. They all find comfort, freedom, and belonging in the Jewish community.

Chloe Mandel recalled the way that shortly after the terrible events of October 7, she and her mother went to see the Jewish comedian Modi, joined by a theater full of other Jewish people. In addition to the power of humor to help people cope with trauma, there was more, as Modi finishes every show with a song deeply meaningful for Jewish identity. "And I started crying a little," Chloe said. "Because we can come together and see the light in things. Laugh, but still be sad."

Eric Mandel sees the unity of the whole Jewish community, regardless of labels. "At the end of the day, it doesn't matter what kind of Jew you are. At the end of the day, you're still a Jew. It always seems unfortunate to me when people get a little territorial. Because we're all proud of the buildings and the practices we've built, but they're all just manmade boxes that we put ourselves in. We're all Jewish — at the end of the day, we're one big family."

At the Greensboro Jewish Federation, everyone is welcome to our greater Jewish family. Whether you've been in town for fifty years or five months, we want to get to know you. The Federation is an inclusive, warm place to begin exploring the parts of your Jewish identity that speak to you most. Stop by and say hello — you are the reason we are here!

JEWISH WOMEN'S GIVING CIRCLE

Empowers Women in Values-Driven Philanthropy



The Jewish Foundation of Greensboro launched its first Giving Circle this year, co-chaired by Caren Appel and Janis Fields. **The mission of the new Jewish Women's Giving Circle (JWGC) is to educate and empower women as philanthropists, funders, and decision-makers, guided by Jewish values.** The JWGC seeks to improve the lives of women and children in the Greensboro community and in Israel through strategic grantmaking focused on *tzedakah* (philanthropic giving) and

tikkun olam (repairing the world).

Each year, the JWGC will distribute grants to nonprofit organizations helping women in need across the world. Members will come together to develop skills and learn about issues and challenges affecting women and children. Through a collaborative process, they will pool and direct resources, engage in strategic grantmaking, read grant proposals, conduct site visits, and vote on which projects to fund based on their potential for impact.

The Giving Circle model is a powerful way to bring women in a community together to engage in philanthropy. It provides an opportunity to share and leverage the group's collective contributions, skills, and creativity, with each member having an equal voice in decision-making. This approach strengthens the participants' identity and commitment to their community, as their Jewish values inspire the choices they make as a group.

Giving Circles are part of a broader movement across the country, where women are thinking about *tzedakah* and *tikkun olam* in new ways, expanding their understanding of Jewish values and the role those values play in philanthropy. By making giving a collaborative experience rooted in Jewish traditions, Giving Circles empower women as philanthropists. Sam Cone, Foundation Chair, notes that one of the strengths of the new JWGC in Greensboro is that it will support causes "both within the Jewish community and in the broader community."

To learn more about the JWGC or get involved, please contact Susan Gutterman by email at sgutterman@jewishfoundationnc.org.



Jewish Women's Giving Circle
Co-chair Caren Appel



Jewish Women's Giving Circle
Co-chair Janis Fields

“The Giving Circle model is a powerful way to bring women in a community together to engage in philanthropy.”

YOUR DOLLARS AT WORK: Advocating for the Shalom Act



Tom Cone, Rabbi Andy Koren, Jenny Kaiser, Shelly Weiner, Glenda Bernhardt and John Cohen met with elected officials to discuss topics that matter most to Greensboro's Jewish community

On Wednesday, May 8, 2024, representatives from the Greensboro Jewish Federation joined a coalition including other North Carolina Jewish Federations and student groups to advocate for the Shalom Act (HB 942) at the North Carolina State Legislature. The group met directly with Governor Cooper and Greensboro's local representatives in Raleigh to address the unique needs and safety concerns of the local Jewish community. The coalition shared why the State of North Carolina needs to define antisemitism and establish a clear guide for identifying and addressing antisemitic incidents utilizing the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition, which has been adopted around the world and across the United States.

"It was wonderful to be present in the NC House Chamber when the bill passed 105 to 4, receiving broad bipartisan support. It was especially heartening to witness our very own Shelly Weiner receive such warm recognition from House members," said Federation CEO Glenda Bernhardt.

As the bill advanced to the NC Senate, community members were encouraged to contact local representatives and voice their support for this important piece of legislation. It is hoped that Governor Cooper will sign this bill into law before the end of this legislative session.



Governor Roy Cooper with representatives from North Carolina Jewish Federations, Jewish for Good, Stand with Us, and IAC

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

Celebrate the Variety!



Join the Wait List at Well-Spring

The Wait List at Well-Spring offers the option for an active and engaging life, full of opportunities for growth and learning. Secure your option *now* for Well-Spring living *later*.



TAKE A TOUR TODAY! 336.579.5600 | GREENSBORO, NC | WELL-SPRING.ORG

MAKING CONNECTIONS



Greensboro's Jewish Community UNITES for a DAY OF SERVICE



The Jewish community of Greensboro joined in a day of joyful service to local charitable causes on Sunday, May 19, 2024. Nearly 150 volunteers participated in hands-on work for a variety of local nonprofits for Yom Tikkun Olam, or “day of repairing the world.” *Tikkun olam* is a central value in the Jewish faith, emphasizing the obligation for acts of social responsibility and kindness.

This day of service (previously known as Mitzvah Day) has taken place annually since 1996. This year, organizers included Jewish Family Services, Beth David Synagogue, Temple Emanuel, and B'nai Shalom Day School.

“People have always loved the spirit of what we previously called Mitzvah Day,” said Jewish Family Services Director Alicia Kaplan. “We decided to rename this day of service as Yom Tikkun Olam to emphasize that this day is about a principle that goes beyond single acts of kindness.”

The day began at 9 a.m. when community members gathered at Beth David Synagogue for breakfast, kick-off rally, and group photo, before heading out to volunteer at one of several project sites.

The new emphasis on dedication to *tikkun olam* also includes an effort called “Torchbearers” that will continue acts of service and volunteerism all year long. To learn more about how to become a Torchbearer, contact JFS Volunteer and Senior Program Coordinator Jamie Schleuning at (336) 852-4829 ext 227.



PRESENTED BY:

SPONSORED BY:



Volunteers enjoyed a delicious breakfast compliments of Beth David Men's Club and Temple Emanuel Brotherhood.



MIXOLOGY AND MERRIMENT: A Spirited Evening at GIA

In March, a lively group of 37 women from the community gathered at local favorite restaurant GIA to chat, laugh, and enjoy a great mixology demonstration, with plenty of fun and goodies on hand.

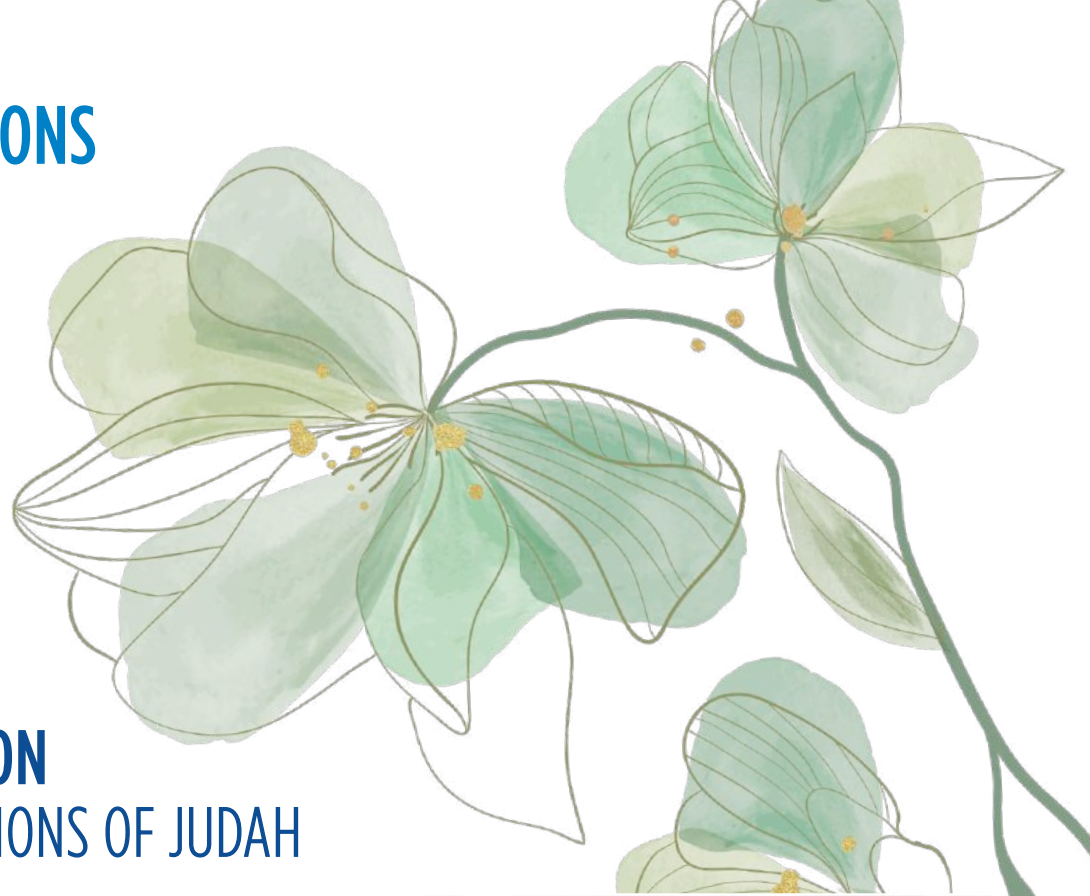
First, the guests enjoyed a demo showcasing delicious cocktails and small bites. Tasters loved the citrusy Yuzu with coconut, vodka, and bitters paired with Sesame Ginger Salmon. The Tiramisu Martini paired with baklava and cinnamon ice cream was a big hit to finish several rounds of innovative flavors.

The prize drawing sparked more excitement and cheers as one lucky winner (Emily Kranz) took home a voucher for an overnight stay for two at the Grandover Resort. More door prizes followed, including pampering services such as a blowout and scalp massage from Blowouts & Bubbles Blow Dry Bar.

The event was co-chaired by Rachel Pront, Michelle Lunney and Molly Brenner Harbaugh.



MAKING CONNECTIONS



SPRING LUNCHEON CELEBRATES THE LIONS OF JUDAH



Kim Bardy
Langsam

Graced with flowers and sunshine, the Spring Luncheon was a lovely celebration of the Lions of Judah and Lions of Judah Endowments.

The Lions of Judah is a group of dynamic Jewish women committed to philanthropy. Over 18,000 women around the world belong to this international global sisterhood supporting social justice, aiding the vulnerable, and building Jewish identity.

The event at 1618 West Seafood Grille included mimosas, appetizers, and an artisanal lunch. Attendees gained valuable insights from speaker Kim Bardy Langsam of the Center for Advancement of Social Entrepreneurship at Duke University. Langsam is expert in the social-venture community and deeply connected to the Greensboro Jewish community through family and friends.

The luncheon was coordinated by Event Co-Chairs Emilie Samet and Michele Slaine.





LAKESIDE ADVENTURE with SHINSHINIOT NOGA & NOA



In mid-April, a hardy group of adults and kids took off for a hiking adventure around the lakeside trail called Big Loop at Bur-Mil Park. Fearless leaders were the teen ambassadors from Israel, Noa Balfour and Noga Bareket (also known as the ShinShiniot). They led the posse through the newly green trees and patches of sunlight. It was a warm spring day, which made it all the better when the hike ended with Miri's falafel and ice cream for all!

A walk in the woods was a perfect way to celebrate this year of active learning with the ShinShiniot. The hike was sponsored by the PJ Our Way Avivim Social Group, B'nai Shalom Day School, and the Greensboro Jewish Federation ShinShinim Program.

The ShinShinim Young Ambassadors program sends Israeli high school graduates out to share their love and knowledge of Israel with Diaspora communities around the world. Noa and Noga's presence has been deeply appreciated during this difficult year. The Jewish community of Greensboro will wish them a fond farewell as they head back to be with their own families again this fall.



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Joy Shavitz and Steve & Judy Shavitz,
on the birth of their grandson, Keanu
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And great grandmother, Phylis Shavitz.
From: Laura and Jeff Friedman

In Memory:

Of: Deane Smigrod, z"l
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Of: Ted Goza, z"l
From: Glenn and Amy Chrystal

WARM FAREWELL AND GRATITUDE: Honoring Rabbi Sneiderman



Rabbi Sneiderman

Heartfelt best wishes are extended to **Rabbi Dr. Eliezer Sneiderman** as he embarks on a new chapter outside the Federation.

Rabbi Sneiderman brought a unique warmth to his role as director of the Jewish Community Relations Committee, fostering deep connections within the community. His commitment to Israeli advocacy, protecting the interests of the Jewish community, and honoring diversity, equity, and justice, leaves a lasting impact in Greensboro.

Rabbi Sneiderman will be fondly remembered by all who had the privilege of working with him. May he find fulfillment and success in all his future endeavors.



Exploring Jewish Life in Argentina & Uruguay with NATIONAL YOUNG LEADERSHIP CABINET

Emily Kranz recently participated in a Study Mission to Argentina & Uruguay with the National Young Leadership Cabinet of the

Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA).

JFNA has three core partners: the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), and World ORT, an organization that teaches skilled trades to Jewish people. All three partners support projects in South America.

“In Argentina, I found a vibrant and thriving Jewish community with amazingly strong Zionism,” Kranz said. She toured a state-of-the-art ORT school offering STEAM education coupled with Jewish cultural & religious studies. She also observed a JAFI-funded Project TEN initiative, placing volunteers from Israel, Canada and the US in public schools in



Emily Kranz with Students in Argentina

a disadvantaged area of Buenos Aires. These volunteers engage in a Jewish curriculum while building bridges in the non-Jewish community.

Kranz also sang and danced with residents at a Jewish nursing home backed by the JDC. “It was Argentina’s version of Well-Spring,” Kranz said. “It was fabulous!”

On a more somber note, Kranz also learned of terrorist attacks against Jews in Buenos Aires during the 90’s. “I felt the still-open wounds of the community,” she said. Visiting the site of the AMIA bombing made her realize that the global Jewish community will mourn those who died and were kidnapped on October 7 for decades to come.

“Seeing the work that we accomplish together as part of the Federation system reminded me of our unique power as a collective to truly make a difference in the lives of Jews in Israel & around the world,” Kranz said. “I’m so glad that the funds raised in the Federation’s annual campaign have supported these three core partners over the years: JDC, JAFI, and ORT. Their work is helping Jews around the world to not only survive, but to thrive.”

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Learning to Love Judaism and the Jewish People at BETH DAVID



“This past spring, Rabbi Gleason initiated the Miller Introduction to Judaism class as a chance to learn, connect, and help others embark on a journey of personal discovery,” said Jason Cathcart, Director of Education at Beth David Synagogue.

Through the multi-session class, those new to Judaism engage with the faith in a meaningful way. The lessons take place inside the classroom and around the community.

The purpose is not to convert people, but instead to instill a love of Judaism.

“I think the class is important not just for converts, but also for the general public not interested in conversion,” said Jamie Raymond, a student in the class. “There are many assumptions about Judaism that people believe. Many of these assumptions are false and breed ignorance at best and antisemitism at worst.” The class provides all attendees with the opportunity to understand the real faith and its real people, free from myths and stereotypes.

Raymond said they had learned not only from the text, but from the other students as well.

The class gives people the chance to see the special character of Jewish group conversations and the diversity of perspectives in the Jewish community.

One of the goals of the class is to convey that Judaism is both a religion and a peoplehood.

Another crucial aspect of the class is also one of the most important parts of Judaism: an acceptance of questions and open discussion. Rabbi Gleason’s aim is to build a space to ask questions, discuss many perspectives, and develop individual understanding in a judgment-free environment.

“The purpose is not to convert people, but instead to instill a love of Judaism.”

Sowing Seeds of Tradition at B’NAI SHALOM DAY SCHOOL

by Sadie Margolis, Elon University Student



Each year at B’nai Shalom, eighth-grade students create a legacy piece to leave their mark on the school forever before they embark on their next adventure.

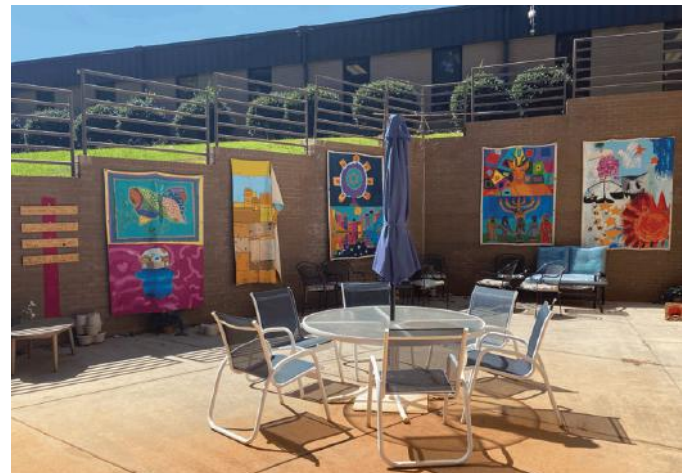
In the spring of 2023, the eighth-grade class used a grant from Legacy Heritage to revitalize the *Gan Limmud*, or Garden of Learning, reconstructing the bare patio outside the art room into a vibrant space. From comfortable furniture to intricate tapestries, their legacy project aimed for *l’dor vador*: to connect generations and spark conversation for years to come.

With the support of former Visual Arts teacher Karen Dresser and Hebrew and Judaic Studies teacher Edna Rubinstein, each piece of the *Gan Limmud* was carefully crafted with personalized meaning by every eighth grader. Their colorful tapestries embraced Jewish values, their *middot*. They were then showcased at a parent meeting attended by over 140 guests.

The ongoing and tragic conflict in the Middle East has given the project a deeper meaning, making it more profound and reflective of Israel’s resilience through the power of the arts and unity.

This year’s eighth-grade project for 2024 will feature 100 poppy flowers painted on canvas. It will serve as a visual representation of the strength of the Jewish community and the deep connection of B’nai Shalom students to their Judaism. Eighth-grader Noah Strasser shared his thoughts about the project, “After you graduate, there’s a part of you that’s still here.”

As we anticipate this display, we honor Israel and yearn for peace, we celebrate the heartwarming spirit of B’nai Shalom, and we cherish the supportive Jewish community of Greensboro.



The eighth-grade class of 2023’s Legacy Project in the *Gan Limmud* showcases tapestries of Jewish Identity.



Greensboro Kids Celebrate Jewish Pride at CHABAD



With a day off school for Presidents' Day, dozens of Jewish children from across the Greensboro area joined together at the Chabad Jewish Center for a fun-filled,

inspirational day of Jewish pride and unity.

The anchor of the event was a grand Challah Bake, which saw the children kneading, rolling, braiding and decorating their masterpieces with colored sprinkles.

The day had all the festive trappings that kids usually enjoy at a Chabad event. The room was decked out with braided Challahs, Kiddush cups, and oversized balloons shaped like giant Shabbat candles.

The fun started with a gourmet breakfast and continued with a performance from ventriloquist Chuck Fields. His Jewish-themed humor — played out by his stage partner, Ziggy — has been wowing and enlightening audiences for over 40 years.



Rivka Bullins with Ventriloquist Chuck Fields

Chabad community member Ashley Eckstat said the event was an opportunity to celebrate Judaism in a world that increasingly feels hostile to Jewish people. "It was so nice to laugh, sing, and just feel good about who we are and what we stand for," said the mother of three.

Rebbetzin Hindy Plotkin coordinated the event to focus on the Talmudic teaching that the world stands upon three things: Torah study, prayer service, and good deeds. To focus on those foundations, the children prayed together, gave charity, and studied a brief Torah passage.

In the spirit of the day, the kids personalized bags emblazoned with the words "Am Yisrael Chai" ("The People of Israel Live"). Plotkin explained that the words themselves express unbreakable unity and oneness, yet the children expressed their own feelings and personalities in how they decorated their bags.

"This is emblematic of what it means to be part of the Jewish people," said Karen Brod who attended with her son Aaron. "We are all different and special — and we bring our unique selves together into one beautiful whole: the Jewish nation."

PJ Library and PJ Our Way offers families the gift of **free Jewish books** about Jewish culture, values, traditions, and much more **every month**.

Interested in signing your children up for PJ Library or PJ Our Way? It's easy! Families with children ages 0-12 can **enroll at** **SHALOMGREENSBORO.ORG**.

FREE Jewish books for kids ages 0 - 12

Beyond the books, PJ Library in Greensboro hosts exciting children's events that are open and welcoming to all! We post regular event updates on SHALOMGREENSBORO.ORG and our PJ LIBRARY GREENSBORO FACEBOOK PAGE.

 **SIGN UP at**
www.shalomgreensboro.org

If you have additional questions, contact the Federation's **Outreach and Engagement Manager** at (336) 852-5433 x243.

PJ Library in Greensboro is made possible by funders, families and partners, including generous support from Mimi Levin.

Image from Aces Wild. Copyright © 2013 by Erica S. Perl.

COMMUNITY

HOPE FOR ISRAEL on Yom Ha'Atzmaut



Israel's Independence Day was different this year.

The Greensboro Community gathered for the holiday, known as Yom Ha'Atzmaut, on May 14 at Beth David Synagogue.

Yom Ha'Atzmaut traditionally falls on the day after Israel's Memorial Day, Yom HaZikaron. Usually, there is a transition from sorrow and reflection on the first day to joy and festivity on the second.

But in this year's touching ceremony, the speakers and audience were drawn together by the tragedy still hanging over Israel since the Hamas attacks on October 7. Songs of peace and hope and a menorah lighting with personal stories made it clear that the Jewish people are still searching for healing for Israel.

Israel has been the home and haven for Jewish people around the world since 1948. Speaker Micah Avital, a teenager of Israeli and African-American heritage, moved listeners with his testimony to Israel's meaning. "I hold Israel in my heart more than ever because Israel is a place of connection, bravery, and courage," Avital said.

Yael Dinur told the story of her former teacher Alex Dancyg, a 75-year-old man who was abducted on October 7 and has not been heard from since November. She voiced the universal longing of the Jewish community for the return of the hostages. "Once the hostages return, we can begin to rebuild our society, our systems, our trust."

Cantorial student Dana Bederson sang the beautiful prayer for peace "Oseh Shalom," which translates as, "May the one who creates peace on high bring peace to us and to all the world."

The ceremony ended with all voices raised in "HaTikvah," reaffirming hope for Israel's freedom and safety.



Rabbis Andy Koren, Grace Gleason and Libby Fisher

TEMPLE EMANUEL'S Jewish Festival Brings Community Together



On April 7, 2024, Temple Emanuel hosted its annual Jewish Festival, an event that not only celebrates Jewish culture but also serves as a bridge between the Jewish community and those eager to learn more about Judaism. With open doors and warm hearts, Temple Emanuel welcomed guests to delve into the richness of tradition, savor Jewish delicacies, and partake in an array of festivities.

At the core of the festival's success were approximately 250 volunteers from the Temple and the wider Jewish community. Their dedication and support ensured that every aspect of the event ran smoothly, from the delicious food to the captivating entertainment.

The festival boasted an enticing spread that left taste buds tingling. From classic pastrami sandwiches to savory falafel and comforting matzo ball soup, there was something to delight every palate. And the baked goods? Simply divine, leaving attendees happily satiated.

The entertainment did not disappoint, with lively music, spirited dancing, and terrific performances. Watching talented artists showcase their skills was a highlight for many, infusing the atmosphere with energy and joy.

Children had a blast in the Kids Zone, bouncing on inflatables and enjoying activities like creating Jewish treasures and getting their faces painted. The vendors offered a trove of handmade crafts and unique finds, providing an opportunity for guests to acquire Judaic items, mementos and gifts.

Educational activities encouraged attendees to explore Jewish history, culture, and traditions in engaging ways. Sanctuary tours, led by Rabbi Andy Koren, provided unique insights and moments of reflection.

Rabbi Koren said, "Our Jewish Festival is part of the broader network of festivals that take place throughout North Carolina each year. People come from far and wide for this annual display and celebration of Jewish identity. It is so amazing to spend the day with friends, old and new, from within and beyond Greensboro's Jewish community."

Erika Levitan & Barry Romberg, this year's Festival Chairs, wish to express their heartfelt gratitude to all the volunteers who made the festival a success.



SMALL BUT MIGHTY HILLEL: Wake Forest University is a great place for Jewish students

Who would have thought that a university originally established in 1834 in the South by the Baptist Convention would become an internationally recognized university that welcomes, embraces, and supports its growing Jewish student population?



WFU Hillel students with University President, Campus Life Vice-President, and Chief Diversity Officer.

But it does! Jewish Life and Hillel at Wake Forest University offer spaces and places for Jewish students to be in community as they grow into Jewish adults – to learn more about Judaism, to connect with other Jewish students on campus and around the world, to celebrate Jewish holidays, to gather at times of crisis, to support and cheer each other on during academic and extracurricular activities, to enjoy fellowship meals, to hang out in the Hillel Lounge, to be safe, and to have fun.

Here is just one story, and we have over 400 WFU Jewish

student stories this year:

Jackie's story: "Attending a law school with a very small Jewish population was daunting. The undergraduate Hillel has supported Jewish law and medical students for years in creating community and celebrating holidays. Without the great community offered by Hillel, the Jewish Law Students Association would not exist as a safe haven for Jewish students on campus. Also, I worked as the Hillel Jewish Learning Fellowship intern this academic year, and it has been a highlight of my Wake Forest experience. Every week, I got to teach and learn from other undergraduate and graduate students that I otherwise would not get to interact with. Hillel allows Jewish students to create their own communities and explore their faith!"

Sign up for the weekly e-newsletter to see all the wonderful programs and events from WFU Hillel. Send an email to bretangh@wfu.edu with the subject line "add to weekly email."

Contact: Dr. Gail Bretan, Associate Chaplain for Jewish Life and Hillel Director, Wake Forest University, (336) 420-0730. jewishlife.wfu.edu

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ISRAEL'S MEMORIAL DAY Brings Tears, Determination



ShinShinim
young ambassadors program
GREENSBORO JEWISH FEDERATION



ShinShinim Noa Balfour and Noga Bareket



On May 13, a deeply moving Yom HaZikaron ceremony honored both Israel's fallen soldiers and victims of terrorism.

As the Jewish community entered Beth David Synagogue, they walked through a gallery prepared by Israeli ambassadors Noa Balfour and Noga Bareket to honor those murdered or taken captive in the October 7 attacks eight months ago.

A hush prevailed as photos of those lost floated overhead like spirits, and last letters from dead soldiers spoke silently from the walls.

A poster testified to all the kibbutzim attacked on October 7, showing how many lives were taken from each kibbutz on that day.

A table set for absent loved ones with photos, including the photo of a baby, brought many observers to tears. Yellow ribbons floated down in graceful lines from the ceiling, reminding everyone of the hostages who still wait to be rescued.

Members of the Jewish community came with their loved ones and friends. The pain was palpable, but so was the honor for the lost and the resilience of the gathered people.

The traditional siren went off to begin the commemoration ceremony of music, readings and prayer. This year, the siren recalled not only emergency and soldiers' summoning, but also the siren that went off on the morning of October 7. The room was completely still, as if the siren was wailing the cry in the heart of every person there.

Marian Ruderman

"It's the closest we can get to the experience of being with people in Israel and feeling what it's like."

Avi Shavit

"For us personally, it's very important because my wife's father was killed in the Six-Day War. So, it's even more close to the heart."

Sharon Kaiser

"It's about community coming together, supporting each other at a very difficult time. My sister from Israel is coming here to the United States on Monday, and we'll be talking a lot about this. There is an imperative to do something if we can. It's such a shame all the way around, whether it's us, the Palestinians, what they're going through and what we're going through. For our country and for us — we're supposed to be a light unto the nations, and here we have to fight again."

Cheryl Kersky

"We just cannot forget. This cannot keep happening. We cannot forget."

Dora Ilyasova

"I feel it, but I can't express it in words. It's beyond words."

OUR TEAM IS GROWING! Meet Federation's New Staff Members



Amy Bernabe

Amy Bernabe is the Graphic Designer and Content Specialist for Social Media at the Greensboro Jewish Federation. Amy hails from Davidson County, NC, where she worked as a Digital Marketing Coordinator.

Through social media and marketing, Amy plans to showcase the Greensboro Jewish Federation's mission, engage the Jewish community, and promote Jewish events and programs. She is excited and honored to be part of the organization.



Roz Elliott

Roz Elliott is the Editorial Manager and Magazine Coordinator for *Shalom Greensboro* magazine.

She is a long-time admirer of the Jewish people and feels honored to have this opportunity to get to know the community. She is also a professional editor and writer in her full-time, remote job and previously edited magazines for a prestigious tourism agency. She earned a degree in English way back in dinosaur times from Yale University, where she found some beloved Jewish friends.



PROXIMITY HOTEL



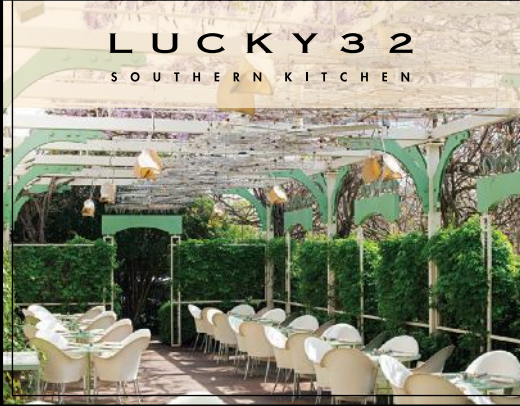
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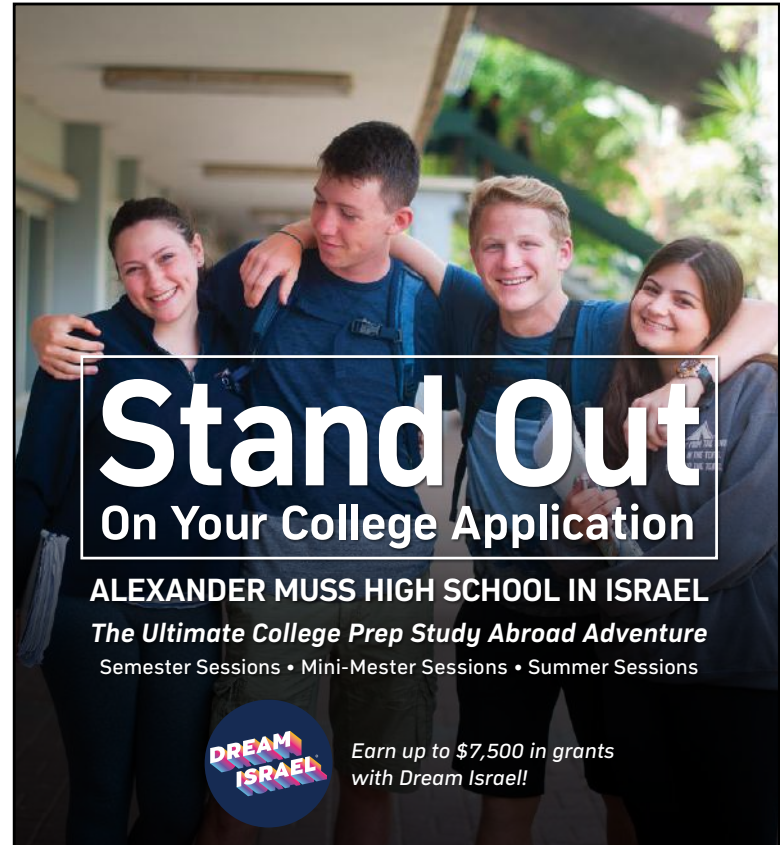


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