


SHALOM

GREENSBORO

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



MONDAY, JUNE 1 • 7-8 p.m.
Hosted online via **zoom**

FEATURING:

- President's Update to Membership
- Election and Installation of New Board Members
- Join us after for a virtual "bring your own" dessert

TO REGISTER and receive your zoom login information, email Dianne Hines dhines@shalomgreensboro.org

SAVE THE DATE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13
STATE OF THE FEDERATION

Jewish Moments
POWERED by YOU



FACING UNCERTAINTY WITH ACTION



Sue Simmons

As I write this, we are in the midst of a worldwide pandemic. There is much fear and trepidation as each of us figures out how to stay healthy while maintaining contact with our community. Miriam Webster's definition of community is "*a unified body of individuals: such as the people with common interests living in a particular area; a group of people with a common characteristic or interest living together within a larger society*". That is what the Greensboro Jewish Federation is. We are community and we build community.

As COVID-19 became a reality for Greensboro, the leadership and staff of the Federation sprang into action, with our top priority being the health and welfare of our staff and community. Immediately, we moved to remote work so that we can "stay open". Programming has shifted from in person to online. Zoom meetings take the place of committee, staff and board meetings. The campaign team is working virtually to complete our campaign, and the 2021 campaign team is already planning for next year. Our campaign is our bread and butter and is what allows our doors to stay "open" no matter what.

Every day, Jewish Family Services is on the front lines providing a community safety net for those in need. Whether someone needs a friend, a ride to the doctor, food, mental health services, or financial relief for those suddenly unemployed, JFS is providing these services in this unprecedented time.

By the time you read this, I hope that at the very least shelter in place orders are a bad dream, that you are well, and that life is beginning to bloom again, much like the trees outside my window. Whether together physically or virtually, the Federation will always be the glue that holds our community together, I am personally grateful for the support of the staff, volunteers and donors. It is a team effort and we could not do it without you. Wishing you good health, sunny days, and a future where our Federation will always be a place where YOUR Jewish life can thrive. Through it all, we are all in this together.

Sue Simmons, President
Greensboro Jewish Federation

ON MY MIND: Staying Connected with our Jewish Community

By Marilyn Forman Chandler, *Executive Director*



Marilyn Forman Chandler

There is an expression that joy cometh in the morning. Robert and I walk very early each morning with friends, listening to the songs of birds of the early Spring and the silence as the neighborhood hasn't yet woken up. There are no diesel-powered school buses or people rushing off with their cup-o-joe to their offices. We pass sidewalks and driveways, chalk-painted with "be happy" and "smile" and hop scotch, drawn by home-schooled children.

It is in one way a bad nightmare and in another, a dream of days reminiscent of my childhood.

Over the past month, we have searched for the joy and daylight each dawn; for the silver lining in the sky despite a dark cloud hovering above us. In these dark days, we yearn for the light.

We at the Federation, Jewish Family Services and the Jewish Foundation of Greensboro are working around the clock to keep our infrastructure strong and intact so that we can continue to lead our community through these difficult and challenging times. Our priorities:

- **Provide a safety net for our entire Jewish community.** JFS responds to all the needs of our community: attending to the mental health concerns of community members to lessen stress and anxiety related to the crisis; continuing to operate the Food Pantry, providing van transport for clients for medically essential needs, providing food delivery when necessary and coordinating telephone reassurance calls to elders alone at home. Once the pandemic slows, JFS will lead the way in recovery efforts to bring hope to the unemployed by offering support groups, skills building workshops as well as networking and placement opportunities.

- **Support and sustain our professional staff** to ensure their health and safety and to do everything we can to enable them to work efficiently and effectively from home. While our physical building may be officially "closed" we are very much "open" for business. We have pivoted and re-tooled our efforts to work remotely; arranged for home access to internet, computers and work space, and we have encouraged small work groups to use creative brainstorming and collaboration on programs. We revised our capacity to

receive mail and donations.

- **Continue our support of JFNA, the Jewish Federations of North America**, our national organization, which deserves a gold star for its leadership in providing webinars and weekly support calls for professionals and volunteer leaders, and direction and legal counsel (a shout out here to Steven Woolf who moved last year with his spouse Frandee to our community to be close to his daughter Emily Gray and family) for, among many other things, the Payroll Protection Plan made possible by the CARES Act. Details can be found at: www.jewishtogether.org.

- **Change the way we communicate.** "Face to Face" has taken on new meaning. Growing up, "Zoom" used to be the sound on our TV when a *Jetsons* or Road Runner cartoon character ran across our TV screen. Today, it is a necessary tool to stay connected, get work done and achieve goals. We are communicating virtually with our volunteers, our boards and committees, all local Jewish community organization and institution leadership as well as the entire Jewish community. Several program staff members have created a working group focused on sending weekly information through "Virtual Visions" featuring local and world events designed to bring people together. We have enhanced our FACEBOOK presence, conducted FACEBOOK LIVE events such as the Challah Bake and the "Anchei Greensboro" site which highlights community members.

- **Continue a deep Jewish presence in the greater Greensboro community.** Our JFS Food Pantry is open to the entire community and we supply food for over 80 families each month. Kol Hakavod to David Frazier, Betsy Gamburg and a team of volunteers who continue to keep our doors wide open. Donor Advised Fund Distributions from our Foundation are financially supporting local NGO's involved in providing assistance in a very large way. Sue Simmons and I are serving on the United Way/CFGG COVID-19 Task Force which is distributing funds to area NGO's involved in supporting our community members. We ask that you continue to support the Emergency Response Fund and the 2020 Annual Campaign, so that the Federation can meet the needs of our Jewish community.

Each day, I awake knowing that today must be better than yesterday. And each day I ask myself how can we, the Federation, JFS and Foundation rise above and bring joy, gratitude and kindness to others. For each and every individual is precious and is created b'tzelem Elohim, in G-d's image.

“In these dark days, we yearn for the light.”



336.852.5433

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Executive Director

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President, Board of Trustees



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FROM THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL: Stepping Up in this Time of Need



Jessica
Wisniewski

before we knew it, the storm had passed and the sun was out again. Just as it had been the day before.

It's a dark time for many of us right now. So many in our world are sick, losing jobs and dealing with uncharted waters. But we know that this storm will pass — and through it all, the Federation will be the sun that comes out at the end of the storm.

What can we do to ensure this happens? We can keep giving, and ensuring that just as it always has been, the Federation will continue to be the backbone of our Greensboro Jewish community and for Jewish people around the world.

We have already started to see the sun rise in our community. The Greensboro Jewish community is stepping up in this time of need once again. We have implemented a Covid-19 Emergency Response Fund, and we are so thankful for the overwhelming response to this fund as well as the continued support for the 2020 Annual Campaign.

It is just amazing to watch the generosity and dedication from all of you. This community is truly POWERED BY YOU! Thank you all for your ongoing support for the Greensboro Jewish Federation.

This past month while sheltering in place, I've had ups and downs — as I imagine we all have. Like many of you, I've had to become a homeschool teacher overnight to two energetic elementary schoolers among many other things! Covid-19 has shown each of us how we can fill roles that we have never imagined.

A few weeks ago, there was a huge storm that passed through our neighborhood. It was a scary night for all of us — we huddled together while our phones went off and alerted us of a possible tornado nearby. But

“the Federation will continue to be the backbone of our Greensboro Jewish community and for Jewish people around the world.”

Tribute to Bernard “Bernie” Gutterman, z”l



Bernie
Gutterman, z”l

All of our current Federation volunteer leaders stand upon the shoulders of leaders who prepared and led the way for our wonderfully supportive and engaged community. In March, we lost former Federation President Bernard “Bernie” Gutterman.

Bernie was president when Federation undertook the resettlement program to bring Jews from the Former Soviet Union. With Joanne Bluethenthal, z”l, Bernie co-chaired the search committee which brought the Chandler family to Greensboro, and hired Dianne Hines. He later chaired the NCCJ Board and with his wife Nancy, have been stalwarts in supporting the construction of a new Hillel building on their alma mater's Penn State Campus. To Nancy, David, Donna and Debbie and the entire Gutterman family, The Greensboro Jewish Federation offers our deepest condolences. May Bernie's name always be for a blessing.

LOVE, CARE AND COMFORT Lights our Way Through the Unknown

“The world has closed down but opened up at the same time.”

One of the great ironies of this strange time has been that we cannot be in close proximity with our neighbors, friends, and co-workers but that closeness and socialization is attainable through our computers and phones, even as we sit alone in a room. The world has closed down but opened up at the same time. I am sure many of you have had the experience now of sharing a Shabbat meal with family and friends via Zoom, watching a movie together by facetimeing, or connecting internationally for a get-together over WhatsApp. We are resilient creatures with the ability to do so much in an imperfect and ailing world.

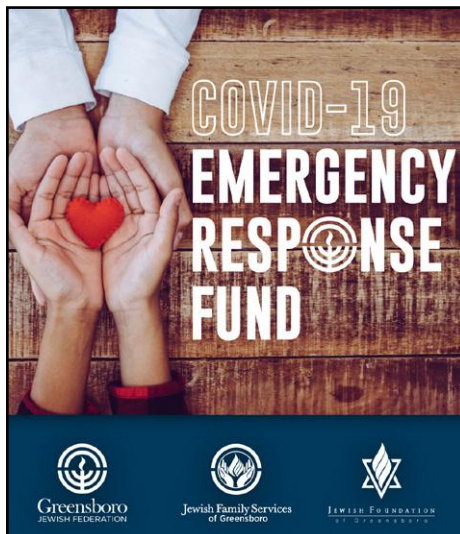
I have been reminded many times these last weeks of a line from Leonard Cohen, the genius poet and songwriter who, among many other moving and profound songs, wrote “Anthem”, the song from which this line comes. “There is a crack in everything; that’s how the light gets in,” sings Cohen in his rich gravelly voice that describes a

world that is full of pain and disappointment. And we ourselves, with very little effort, can see that world. Certainly what this pandemic has done is reason alone to join Cohen in his vision. And yet, Cohen cannot stay there—it is through those things that are broken in our world, through those very cracks of imperfection, that we see the light, the goodness, perhaps G-d, entering into our world. Without those cracks, there surely would be only darkness.

At Jewish Family Services and everywhere in our community and beyond, I have seen so much love and care and comfort extended that I know what Cohen says is true. The light is revealed in so many ways—calling those who are alone to keep their spirits up, teaching each other technology to stay connected, the incredible work of all front line health care providers, offering classes and workshops and book discussions to ease the boredom, singing together from balconies, offering neighbors across the way encouragement.

The list goes on and on, even in the face of COVID-19, and the light is shining.

Betsy Gamburg, Director
Jewish Family Services



The Jewish community Emergency Response Fund helps address the immediate needs of individuals and organizations during the COVID-19 crisis.

Did you know one aspect of the recently passed CARES Act includes new charitable giving incentives? To bolster charitable giving in a time of economic downturn, a \$300 above-the-line tax deduction for charitable giving, will be eligible to both itemizers and non-itemizers alike. The CARES Act also raises itemized charitable contribution deduction limits for individuals who itemize their deductions and claim the charitable contribution deduction.

We urge you to consider giving to this fund which will assist us in providing housing assistance, food and mental health services, to the Jewish residents in Guilford county during this critical time. All donations to the emergency response will be designated to the *Tobee W. and Leonard J. Kaplan JFS Client Assistance Fund*.

To donate, visit shalomgreensboro.org, call the Federation office (336) 852-5433, or mail a check payable to Greensboro Jewish Federation to 5509-C West Friendly Avenue, Greensboro, North Carolina 27410. **To apply for emergency response funds**, visit www.jfsgreensboro.org to access application and guidelines.

TODAH RABAH

Thank you to the following people for contributions to Jewish Family Services. All contributions to JFS are used to support JFS programs and services and those in the Greensboro community unless otherwise specified by the donor.

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES

Danielle and Nathan Swick

In Honor:

Of: Sylvia Samet's birthday
From: Shelly Weiner and Leonard Clein

In Memory:

Of: Irving Trip
From: Irene and Irv Cohen
Of: Klara Oppenheimer
From: Bertel Blumberg

FOOD PANTRY

Jared Farber
Pat and Peter Levitin
Michele Gordon and Pat Levy, III
Temple Emanuel

In Honor:

Of: Arlene Bardy's birthday
From: Ellen and Lenny Samet
Of: Raffi Simel
From: Joy Shavitz
Of: Tammi Thurm
From: Joy Shavitz

In Memory:

Of: Jack Levin
From: Joy Shavitz
Of: Halina Ozarow
From: Joy Shavitz
Of: Irene Petrinitz
From: Joy Shavitz
Of: Paul Klein
From: Joy Shavitz
Of: Henrietta (Reta) Guttman
From: Joy Shavitz
Of: Bobbie Wilson
From: Maddie Reed

TOBEE W. AND LEONARD J. KAPLAN JFS CLIENT ASSISTANCE FUND

Sharon Segall
Louise and Peter Van Schaack

VAN FUND

Jared Farber
Helen Lapidus

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.



Helping our Community: JFS Continues Programs during Crisis

Jewish Family Services (JFS) has been working hard to help many in our community through these difficult days.

Passover Celebrations

Over 100 gift bags, including boxes of matzoh, were delivered to older adults in the community and in senior living facilities. A Passover guide with questions to reflect upon and videos to enjoy was also distributed.

Reaching Out

Over 200 older adults are getting weekly check in calls through the **Adopt A Friend** program. Many volunteers have stepped forward to assist the agency in this work. Contact David Frazier, volunteer coordinator at (336) 852-4829 x227 if you'd like to help.

Supportive Counseling

The JFS staff has been in touch with over 500 seniors to offer encouragement and reassurance. The clinical staff follows up regularly with those who are alone or feeling isolated, regardless of age. JFS also participated in providing a workshop to Jewish students at UNCG Hillel focused on tools for coping with anxiety.

Necessities of Life

The agency has been assisting those in our Jewish community in need of food and medicine to get these safely. We are directing community members to resources and helping them understand what is available. We also have contributed to Greensboro Housing Association's efforts to provide necessities to their seniors.

Van Service

Assisting with deliveries and critical medical appointments continues.

Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is open and is providing food to those in need. Most recently, help and food donations have been provided from the local Jewish community, A Simple Gesture, Greenfield's NY Deli and Bagels, and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Thank you to all who have contributed!

The JFS staff is maintaining a regular work schedule and is responding to all messages remotely. **If you are concerned about someone in the community or need help for yourself, please reach out.** Call (336) 852-4829 or email Betsy Gamburg at Bgamburg@shalomgreensboro.org.

ON THE COVER

Dr. Deborah Schoenhoff with her husband, Dr. Gerald Plovsky



SERVING THE COMMUNITY with Dr. Deborah Schoenhoff

Our cover features Dr. Deborah Schoenhoff, an internal medicine specialist who has been practicing for 26 years. Dr. Schoenhoff, along with her husband, Dr. Gerald Plovsky, are active members of the Maimonides Society. She is a graduate of the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine with honors and is in practice with Eagle Internal Medicine at Tannenbaum. She and her husband have two grown daughters and are members of Temple Emanuel, where they served on the Board of Trustees.

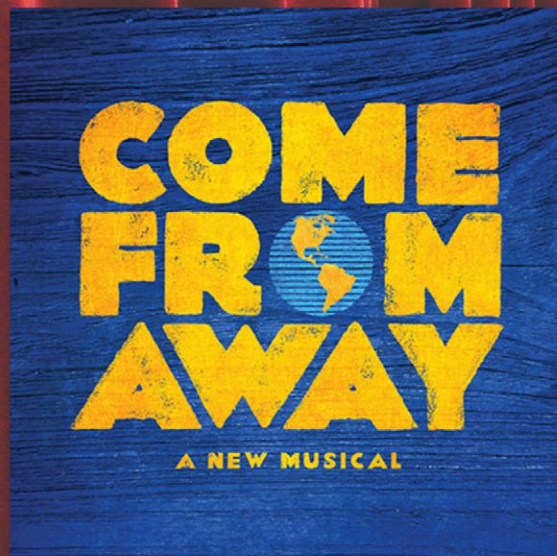


Application Information for COVID-19 Emergency Response Funds

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 response funds, visit 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.



Sept. 29 - Oct. 4



Nov. 3 - 8



Groups 10+ available now!
TangerCenter.com/Groups

Embracing Hope

LEARNING to LIVE with the NEW NORMAL



Governor Roy Cooper signed a Stay at Home Order for the entire state of North Carolina on Friday, March 27. By that time, COVID-19, a highly contagious virus, had infected hundreds of people—with experts saying the worst is yet to come.

Mixed in with the devastating news of the virus, there is hope. Local doctors are working to help heal the ill and trying to keep everyone else healthy. Dr. Deb Schoenhoff said “being in Primary Care we are on the front lines of the pandemic and it has impacted significantly the care we give to patients.” She went on that “at Eagle we’ve had a focus on being as prepared as we can to protect our staff and patients and at the same time not cause panic.”

“Mixed in with the devastating news of the virus, there is hope.”

Panic. That is exactly what mom, Rima Kleiner is avoiding. She said her kids have started to accept the new normal. “I think they’ve enjoyed having a little bit of disruption and being home more.” She said her kids definitely miss the face to face connection with their friends. “Other than that they’ve adjusted ok. It’s a different normal right now.”

Her kids are enrolled at B’nai Shalom Day School. There, teachers are trying to lead classes close to normal. Teachers have designed classes to be about 20 - 30 minutes in length with 6 or 7 throughout the day. Kleiner said, “The first week’s goal has been to connect with the kids and get them used to the process.” The school is asking for parental involvement. She sees her role as the time keeper. “It isn’t glamorous. Teachers are sending schedules to parents and what they are hoping to cover.” She pointed out her kids were excited to see friends on the computer screen. “This has helped bring a little bit of normalcy to the kids during this time and created a routine.”

The routine at Schoenhoff’s office has also changed. Instead of seeing patients in the office, they are using FaceTime, Zoom and their own software to see patients via telemedicine. So far, they’ve seen several hundred people. They’ve also instituted a triage at the front door. “A clinical staff person is at the entrance. They

are asking questions about travel, exposure to COVID and taking temperatures before they come inside. If they answer positive, they go back to their car while the clinician discusses the case with a physician.”

She has witnessed that “people are taking it seriously and patients are being proactive with getting information.” There is a lot of information from the CDC, regional facilities, and doctors’ practices. She urges people to follow safety guidelines of staying six feet away from the next person and frequently washing hands. “If you have any respiratory illness PLEASE stay home.”

Kleiner’s seven-year-old daughter is proud of the way she’s adjusted to virtual school. “I like seeing friends. It was fun to see my best friend on the Zoom meeting.” She also said she doesn’t really need her mom’s help. “We go onto Seesaw and read the instructions. I just need Mom to help me with logging in.” Her mom sees other challenges. “The kids are trying to make their spaces to talk when they are called upon and I’m trying to make my own space but it’s hard. The other day my son was on a call with school. The dog was barking. So I went into the 2’x2’ pantry so I could speak with a client.”



Rima Kleiner and family

With all of the challenges and adjustments being made there are some moments of pride. Schoenhoff said she is “so proud of the entire team at Eagle Physicians and how prepared we are and what we are doing. We take our service to the community seriously.” Noting that the “work has double and sometimes tripled and changes daily and sometimes hourly.”

Experts are saying COVID-19 could be with us for months. Kleiner doesn’t know how much of the situation her kids actually grasp. “It’s surreal. They don’t grasp several months anyway. They don’t grasp the time concept. They overheard a conversation ... about if they will be going back to school. I’m not sure if they get it or what that actually means.”

OPEN YOUR HEART: Extend a Helping Hand

By Gail LeBauer



Gail LeBauer

A Foundation is a structure established to support the community by its stability. It is designed to uphold and maintain all that future generations will need for sustenance and growth. This is the Jewish Foundation of Greensboro, here for us in times of need as well as times of plenty.

We are in unstable times facing situations which none of us could ever have anticipated.

As Joseph wisely told the Pharaoh, “in our years of plenty, we save for the lean years.” This is one of those times. In our community many are in need, and we, The Jewish Foundation of Greensboro, are here FOR GOOD. We the Jewish people are here for GOOD. And each of us is here to make a difference. We cannot look away when trouble comes; we cannot shut down, even when we cannot leave our homes. We must open our hearts and our hands and reach out to one another because that truly is why we are here FOR GOOD.

It is a blessing that many of us are fortunate to have established Donor Advised Funds, which we

created during the times of plenty in order to extend a helping hand in exactly the situations that we are now facing. And we can each make a difference. We are grateful to the Jewish community for your continued generosity. It is so difficult to realize there are so many in need right here in our community. Please continue this spirit of generosity. This is the time to come to the aid of one another, to reach into your heart. The planning that has been so wisely done in the years of plenty is so very much needed in these discomfoting and frightening times.

The time is now — open your hands, your hearts, your Donor Advised Funds, and your Jewish *Neshumah* and know that you have done your part to heal the pain surrounding us. The trees we plant today will bear fruit for those that come after us.

Gail LeBauer is the Past Chair, Jewish Foundation of Greensboro; Secretary, Jewish Foundation of Greensboro Board 2019-2020.

“We must open our hearts and our hands and reach out to one another because that truly is why we are here FOR GOOD”



Jewish Foundation of Greensboro INVESTMENT COMMITTEE



Front seated: Arthur Samet, Jeri D'Lugin, Randall Kaplan, David Delman, Amit Hampel, Mike Berkelhammer **Back standing:** Andy Aronson, Sam Cone, Howie Mezer, Masood Vojdani *Financial Advisor*, Tom Sloan *Investment Chair*, Susan Gutterman, Leonard Clein, Marilyn Chandler **Not pictured:** Freddy Robinson, Jerry Pinsker

TRIAD JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

TJFF: IT'S A WRAP!



The 2020 Triad Jewish Film Festival (TJFF) was a smashing success with a total attendance of 1,111 patrons from the six film showings, according to Festival Chair, Madeline Reed.

“The generous support of the Friends of the Festival helped keep ticket prices affordable for the entire community and we are so appreciative of the continuous dedication of our Reel Deal pass holders,” Madeline added.

This year’s festival was made possible by both in-kind and monetary donations from nineteen corporate sponsors. The partnership with Well.Spring helped the festival achieve its mission of bringing national and internationally acclaimed films to the greater Greensboro community. The theatre’s increased seating capacity enabled the festival to expand the amount of tickets sold, and the accessibility features ensured that everyone was comfortable and able to enjoy the films. WellSpring staff made sure the festival ran smoothly.

Thank you to the amazing TJFF committee for their dedication and hard work ensuring the success of this year’s festival.



TJFF Committee members: Jerome and Jeanette Katz, Marilyn & Ken Cherry, Gail Haber, Jennie Spallone, Howard Becker (co-vice chair) **not pictured:** Madeline Reed (Chair), Arlene Henza (co-vice chair), Cheryl Kersky, Rocco Spallone, Rabbi Phil Cohen, Jill Auslander and Carly H. Dunno (Outreach and Engagement Manager)

A STORY OF HOPE AND MIRACLES



Sue Klau

During her isolation at Well Spring, Sue Klau has been working on several projects. Since Passover was during the quarantine period, Sue decided to make a family Hagaddah in honor of Jeanette Kaufman, her great granddaughter, who just turned a year old, and in memory of her late husband, Jimmy Klau, z”l.

Sue’s Passover story is about blue butterflies who live in Pretty City, but who become imprisoned in Grimlandia. Sue illustrated the story with lovely drawings of blue butterflies throughout.

“Butterflies are a symbol of freedom and beauty that we all need to hold on to at this time. We have to find miracles and keep our glass half full. Maybe if it’s half full, we can concentrate on the miracles that we find, including the miracle of friendship, the miracle of family and the miracle of phone calls, which help us connect to our friends and family during this time of isolation,” said Sue.

“Of course, we are all looking forward to returning to a normal life,” added Sue. The story concludes with the blue butterflies returning to Pretty City and having

baby blue butterflies, symbolizing the end of the quarantine and life returning to normal.

Sue has also been in frequent touch with Anat Hoffman and has been working closely with Anat to create a lifetime membership for children to the ‘Women of the Wall’ organization. Sue is currently painting a picture of the Western Wall in the Old City of Jerusalem, which features blue butterflies flying over.

Sue is the daughter of Isabel Cone Levy, z”l and Samuel Malcolm Levy, z”l. She grew up in Cincinnati, and her family had strong roots in Greensboro, where they often visited. She graduated from Sarah Lawrence College with a degree in teaching and has spent a great deal of time studying the Torah and teaching young people studying for their B’nai Mitzvah, both in Puerto Rico [where she and her late husband founded a Synagogue] and in Greensboro.



“Butterflies are a symbol of freedom and beauty that we all need to hold on to at this time.”

ON THE TOWN

Jewish Moments
POWERED BY
YOU

#SHALOMGREENSBORO #GSOJEWISHMOMENTS
 #FLATTENTHECURVE



Greensboro Jewish Federation reached out through social media to find out what our community was doing during quarantine. We enjoyed the responses and want to thank everyone who shared.

Please know that we are thinking of you during this time whether you are isolating with your family or alone. We welcome additional photos — submit to info@shalomgreensboro.org and we will post on our Instagram and Facebook pages.



The Kranz family celebrates Rodney's birthday with a cake made by their son, Jacob



The Dunno family takes a bike ride



Ivan Saul Cutler is "safe, secure, creatively ensconced and happily and productively in coronavirus-induced hibernation-sequestration"



Hillary Zaken and her family enjoy the outdoors



Ari Hausman helps his son with online learning



Federation staff uses technology for meetings



Dave Polinsky hangs a bird feeder sent by his grandchildren



Kathy Manning enjoys a GJF Zoom Challah Bake



The pantry expanded into the Federation front room to allow David Frazier and volunteers to work at a safe social distance



Erica Aronson and daughter enjoy a picnic with their dog



Mitchel Sommers sings *Que Sera Sera* to his mom, Gloria Clarke, over the phone through a window at her retirement community



Aaron LeBauer and family make s'mores

JFS FOOD PANTRY



Thanks to generous donations of food and funds to purchase groceries, Greensboro's Jewish Family Services (JFS) is filling bags for the agency's Jewish and non-Jewish clients. Jewish Family Services is a community involved agency of the nearly 80-year-old Greensboro Jewish Federation.

Joining David Frazier, JFS Volunteer Services Coordinator, Lori Leibowitz Heimann and Alexa Rose Cutler unpacked newly arrived provisions and filled grocery bags for the mitzvah of joyful distribution.

Photographs: Ivan Saul Cutler



Bags of food are ready to go



Well protected, Alexa Rose Cutler pulls products for the food bags

Lori Leibowitz Heimann opens boxes of food from Amazon



TEMPLE EMANUEL Stays Connected During the Pandemic



“The idea of social distancing is counterintuitive to Jews. We are people that never made rugged individualism into a paramount value. By contrast, we need 10 people for a minyan. Our goal has always been to create a ‘holy community’ rather than ‘holy individuals,’” according to Rabbi Fred Guttman.

When faced with the challenge to create and maintain community during this time of social distancing, Temple Emanuel leadership redefined this concept and came up with innovative ways to keep the congregation socially connected while practicing physical distancing.

“We are doing everything that we can to keep people socially connected using technology. As Rabbis, we are making more phone calls than ever before. Board members are making calls to check in with our congregants. We are using Zoom and Facebook live platforms to bring people together,” noted Rabbi Guttman.

Temple Emanuel’s regular weekly online experiences include: Shabbat services (with a weekly pre-Shabbat message sent to the congregation via YouTube), Torah study, adult and children’s education; including Religious School assembly every Sunday morning, weekly lunch groups with the rabbis on Wednesdays, coffee on Friday mornings, Kabbalat Shabbat with the pre-school, committee meetings, weekly bedtime stories with Rabbi Guttman, Friday night blessing of children, weekly Brotherhood and Sisterhood meetings and more. The Melton course is now free for the rest of the year.

Temple Emanuel hosted a virtual funeral/memorial service, attended by the deceased’s family from near and far, as well as a Bar Mitzvah service.

Rabbi Guttman concluded, “No one knows how and when this difficult period will end. It is our hope that, when it does, we will be able to return to being together physically as well as socially. May G-d bless all of us with health and well-being and may this global pandemic soon disappear from our midst!”

COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS: CFJS Explores the Effects of Isolation



“Loneliness, isolation, depression, paranoia, decreased physical ability, loss of appetite and a host of other possible issues may be more

prevalent now with the Jewish senior population and those with chronic health issues as a result of the COVID-19 restrictions. We don’t know how long the emotional issues will affect people,” said Wendee Cutler, Executive Director, Carolina Foundation for Jewish Seniors (CFJS).

“Often times this group is not technologically adept, may not have a computer, smart phone or Wifi. Some struggle to use a TV remote control, their current connection to the outside world. Most of us take these luxuries for granted,” Cutler added.

The past few months are some of the most trying times our country has experienced. By now, most are aware of the seriousness and need for all the precautions taken.

Rabbi Andy Koren of Temple Emanuel reminds us “Even though physical distancing is currently necessary, it is important that we find other ways to remain socially and spiritually connected.”

A short phone call a couple of times a week can make the difference in an isolated person’s life. Your local Jewish Family Services, and other organizations can connect you with a good match. Patience and compassion go a long way in helping everyone stay calm and healthy. Physical illness and mental wellbeing are important parts to lead a healthy life.

Carolina Foundation for Jewish Seniors is committed to its history of enriching the lives of Jewish seniors living in North and South Carolina. For more information on CFJS, visit www.carolinajewishseniors.org, email Wendee Cutler at wcutler@carolinajewishseniors.org or call (336) 854-8400.

“A short phone call a couple of times a week can make the difference in an isolated person’s life.”



Isaac Ross attends class with his dog.



B'NAI SHALOM DAY SCHOOL Students Dive into Distance Learning

On March 13, B'nai Shalom students brought home their iPads “just in case” Governor Cooper imposed social distancing orders on the state of North Carolina. The staff and faculty at B'nai Shalom had been preparing for such a scenario since the beginning of March, so when schools were ordered to close their doors for in-person learning, B'nai Shalom was ready to hit the ground running.

On March 16, students and teachers dove right in to distance learning. The learning plan for K- 8 students includes a combination of ‘traditional’ assignments such as reading books, writing stories, and solving math problems, and ‘electronic’ activities such as watching short educational videos, collaborating on Google Docs for upper school, Seesaw (an online student engagement platform) and listening to Hebrew stories. There are many opportunities throughout the day to interact virtually with both students, peers and their teachers.



Students learn from a STEM project at home.



Ms. Bobbijeane acts out a story with her preschool class

In the preschool, teachers are also leading a combination of synchronous and asynchronous learning. Students are able to participate in two live sessions with their class each day; in addition to a library of pre-recorded videos full of art projects, stories, songs and more!

B'nai Shalom offers multiple community-wide engagement opportunities. From preschool Shabbat on Friday mornings to Saturday evening Havdalah, school-wide events help bring a sense of comfort to the B'nai Shalom community. All are welcome to join any of these events. Visit www.bnai-shalom.org/bnaihome to view events and login information.

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Maintaining Communal Bonds and Service of God at BETH DAVID



"To say these are unusual times would be an understatement. We have never faced a situation like this before in our lifetimes," noted Rabbi Joshua Ben-Gideon.

Throughout our history, rabbis have faced unique situations and made adjustments, sometimes radical, to maintain communal bonds and service of God. In the past rabbis have cited Psalm 119 verse 126 תִּזְכֶּנֶה לַיהוָה : It is a time to act for the LORD, for they have violated Your teaching.

While the Psalmist instructs the religious leader to take extraordinary measures when the people stray from Torah, the rabbis have read this differently. In their creativity they have read this to mean that when there is a dire circumstance, when things are unprecedented, this is the time to act for the LORD, even by uprooting halachic norms and traditions.

For the duration of this crisis, Beth David will be taking some extraordinary measures to keep our community connected on Shabbat, for daily education, and Passover, including live-streaming services and seder.

Though connecting online like this is unusual, community members have witnessed the power of its potential. "Seeing each other's faces, hearing each other's voices and learning together strengthens our connections to one another, brings us closer to God and pierces the isolation that we all are feeling right now. Please join in. Your presence online does make a difference. Take care of your bodies, and let connection and Shabbat refresh your soul," concluded Rabbi Ben-Gideon.

“when things are unprecedented, this is the time to act for the LORD, even by uprooting halachic norms and traditions.”

JTRIAD Goes Virtual Staying Connected Across the Miles



When the Stay at Home order began, Joel Zindel (a member in Winston-Salem), contacted the JTriad co-chair asking if JTriad was going to have a virtual happy hour. The JTriad board quickly took action and scheduled the first (of many) virtual events.

The first event, a Sunday brunch chat on Zoom, was hosted in place of JTriad's inaugural Shakshuk-off, which will be rescheduled. A few JTriad members were ready to put on a chef's hat and make their best Shakshuka — a traditional middle eastern breakfast dish with baked eggs and tomatoes. The group looks forward to the friendly (and delicious) competition later this year.



JTriad members experience a Virtual Shabbat via Zoom

"Since late March, we have hosted up to three virtual events some weeks and they have all been successful and engaging," said Beth Mannella, JTriad co-chair. The first virtual HeBrew Happy Hour was held on April 1,

which included more than ten participants. A virtual Shabbat was held on April 3, and a Matzo pizza party was held on the final night of Passover, with a modified Seder led by Ron Yardenay.

"One interesting aspect of our virtual meet-ups has been participation from members who have moved out of state. Connecting with previous active members has been fun, and this quarantine has provided an unexpected way to stay connected," added Beth. Out of town attendees included JTriad members who now live in Philadelphia, PA; Boulder, CO; and Rochester, NY. Everyone who has attended found that the distance was not a factor in this new 'virtual' world.

JTriad is excited to resume in-person events when it is safe to do so, and until then, the group will continue to hang out virtually.

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



CHABAD Distributes Seder-to-Go Kits for Passover



As Passover approached, with restrictions put in place to curtail the spread of COVID-19, Jewish community members

were at home under mandated shelter-in-place orders. Chabad responded with Passover Seder-to-Go kits and DIY tools.

“While traditionally, Passover is a time when families and communities come together, this year, we were all celebrating at home, and for many, it was their first time conducting a Seder. That’s why we made sure that everyone had what they needed to celebrate Passover,” said Rabbi Yosef Plotkin.

Chabad prepared over 100 Seder-to-Go kits that contained all of the traditional foods, plus instructions on how to conduct a Passover Seder. The kits were distributed to anyone who requested one, ensuring that over 100 families in Greensboro wishing to have a Passover Seder could easily do so, whether in quarantine or just isolating at home.

In the past, Chabad has led large community Passover Seders open to the public, and made sure that all of Greensboro’s community members had the tools to celebrate Passover, including providing for the home-bound and those living in facilities. This year, with social distancing measures in place, Chabad ramped up those efforts to ensure that everyone had what they needed to celebrate the holiday in their homes.

“This was such a wonderful idea,” said Rachel Villalba, participant in the project. “I am so grateful to Chabad!”, she added.

In addition, thanks to a generous contribution from the Scott D. Kaplan Family Fund, Chabad distributed three round handmade shmurah matzah to over 350 families, adding a unique flavor and experience to the Seder. The *Kaballah* refers to the shmurah matzah as the “Bread of Faith & Bread of Healing”.

“Faith and Healing are two things we all needed an extra dose of this Passover season,” concluded Rabbi Plotkin.

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Virtual Challah Bake

Join us Fridays, at 3 p.m. for a Virtual Challah Bake. Our guest bakers will be leading us in challah baking fun! The event will be hosted via Zoom and accessible to everyone on Facebook Live. Visit the Federation on Facebook to sign up in advance or watch live.

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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



Let's stay in touch through technology! The **Virtual Visions page at www.shalomgreensboro.org** is your one-stop connection to virtual events hosted by the Federation and our Greensboro Jewish community. For even more ways to stay involved and connected, follow the Greensboro Jewish Federation on Facebook and Instagram.



JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES
VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES presents programs that contribute to a vibrant Jewish life. Programs will provide a range of supportive and mental health services to assist all of our members to meet life's challenges. Information and ways to access can be found at www.jfsgreensboro.org.




Virtual Events

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



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



Chabad
Greensboro

Chabad Greensboro is hosting a slew of online events to cheer each other up, be inspired and celebrate — yes 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 for the latest on all upcoming events.



Jewish Together
Virtual Meetups

Virtual Meetups is part of "Jewish Together" a community of informative resources powered by **The Jewish Federations of North America**. Stay connected with your Jewish Community by enjoying meet-ups that anyone is welcome to join. For a complete list of virtual gatherings, visit www.jewishtogether.org/virtual-meetups.

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