

# SHALOM

## GREENSBORO

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**WAY**

The Campaign for **EARNED ACHIEVEMENT**



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at this  
table  
**EVERYONE IS WELCOME**

Earlier this year I came across the story of the son of Holocaust survivors from the town of Thessaloniki, Greece, from which only about 2,000 of 50,000 Jews survived the war. His father and uncle escaped the ghetto to Athens and, with the help of the Athens police, obtained a new identity with a Christian surname. They never saw their parents again. His mother was sent to Auschwitz and pulled from a firing line after payment of a ransom by her sister’s Christian husband. His parents met and married eight years later. Recently, the son said, “My father had two dreams – one, that I would become a scientist and two, that I would marry a nice Jewish girl. I’m happy to say he lived long enough to see both dreams come true.”

We should all be happy those dreams came true as well. The story is that of Dr. Albert Bourla, CEO of Pfizer. As you know, under his leadership, Pfizer developed, in record time, one of the most effective Covid-19 vaccines to date.

We like to take pride in and celebrate the accomplishments of our fellow Jews around the world. But, this should remind us that all people have the potential to make our world a better place. It is worth noting that Dr. Bourla is an immigrant and he works for a company founded by another immigrant. If Dr. Bourla had not been born, or if he had been excluded from the worlds of science and business, our world may be in much worse shape; we might have lost one of our best opportunities to suppress the current pandemic.

There are countless stories like Dr. Bourla’s. Indeed, our own community would not have the strength it does without the engagement of so many from different locations and backgrounds. Our unique history requires us to understand and support the goals of diversity, equity, and inclusion, both locally and in the world around us. In these pages, you will learn some of the ways we are working to do so and are striving to nurture the potential in all of us.

Tom Cone, President  
Greensboro Jewish Federation  
2020 - 2022



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# ON MY MIND: The Power of J.E.D.I.

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



Marilyn Forman Chandler

Last December, the Federation brought the journalist and author, Bari Weiss, to our Virtual Campaign Kickoff Event to speak about her recent writings on antisemitism. She is a strong advocate for Jewish education, Israel, and for standing up to antisemitism. During her discussion, Bari detoured and spoke about equality of access, rather than equity, and also gave opinions on racism and Black Lives Matter. Her talk unintentionally discounted much of the anti-racism work focused on diversity, equity and inclusion in which our Federation, national federations, and Jewish Community Relations Committees have been focused. Though many of us, including myself, may not have initially recognized Bari's remarks as dismissive, a number of community members were upset by some of her comments.

It was not the intention of the Federation to lose their voice in the conversation.

Because of what Bari said and because of how some of our community members responded, we took it upon ourselves to better understand issues in our local and national communities. Our Federation President, Tom Cone, Former Federation President and Chair of the Jewish Community Relations Committee, Sue Simmons, and I, along with professionals in our community devoted to social justice work, are participating in the first cohort of JFNA's "J.E.D.I." (Justice Equity Diversity Inclusion) program. We are all dedicating time each month on training, readings, videos and conversations to learn more about how our community can be one that is open to learning about these issues and then act upon our learning. Although at times it can be uncomfortable, we have a responsibility to reflect on our own personal biases and stereotypes. Holding conversations with those who have different backgrounds than we do can create safe spaces for forward thinking, inclusivity, and a community that is welcoming to all.

A friend of mine shared a song with me some time ago. It very aptly expresses my sentiments about my desires for our community. An excerpt from the song:

*At This Table* by Idina Menzel

At this table, everyone is welcome  
At this table, everyone is seen  
At this table, everybody matters  
No one falls between  
At this table, you can say whatever  
At this table, you can speak your mind  
At this table, everything's forgiven  
There's enough for everyone  
So come as you are  
Remember that the door is always open  
Yes, come as you are  
At this table, everyone is welcome  
At this table, everybody cares  
At this table, everybody matters  
So come, pull up a chair.

I look forward to continued dialogue and learning in the year to come.



336.852.5433

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Executive Director

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President, Board of Trustees



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# On The Campaign Trail: The Federation is Here for Good

By Ron Yardenay and Elizabeth Strasser, 2022 Campaign Co-Chairs



Ron Yardenay

## ***A bit about Ron, from Ron:***

Growing up in Greensboro allowed me to be exposed to the many ways our community has been able to serve local and global Jewry. I can share many of these instances, and will in the coming year, but for this introductory article I'll limit myself to one that directly impacted my education. The years of support the Federation has provided for B'nai Shalom Day School assisted in eight years of

my education and will continue to serve my family as my partner, Beth, and I will send our firstborn son, Samson, to B'nai's infant room. We are excited that he will be active in such a focal point of our community. The more involved I become with the community through the Federation, the more I find that I can relate my life to the work and successes of its mission, and I am grateful to continue realizing the impact of its work through my journey of adulthood and now parenthood.



Elizabeth Strasser

## ***Elizabeth's why, from Elizabeth:***

I did not grow up in the Greensboro Jewish community. I grew up Christian, Episcopalian to be exact... and as my Dad calls it, "Catholic light." I was introduced to Judaism when I met my husband, Joe Strasser. We started dating, and I learned all about it - from Shabbat and High Holy Days to Hanukkah and what it means to be Jewish. I've also experienced the great work of the Federation,

not only for our local Jewish community but also for people we may never meet. I've had the pleasure of being able to travel to Israel and Germany on missions with the Federation and also co-chaired the Civil Rights Mission in February 2020. Over the past 15 years, I've been welcomed into the Greensboro Jewish community with open arms and hearts. Our community not only supports me and my interfaith family, but all kinds of families in Greensboro and all over the world. This has led me to become more involved and why I am here today.



## ***The Campaign Co-Chairs Together:***

Leading the campaign this year was an easy decision for us. Our theme is "Here for Good," and the community depends on leadership to ensure the contingency and sustainability this theme directs. Along with our experienced campaign team, whom we can attribute this smooth operation to, we look forward to having an active role in ensuring our campaign theme remains a reality. Just like all of you, we are "Here for Good." To a successful 2022 Annual Campaign!

11  
17<sup>th</sup>  
2021

GREENSBORO JEWISH FEDERATION

major gifts  
event

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HERE FOR GOOD

## JFS Helps to Make Sure Everyone Is Visible

This year, Jewish Family Services (JFS) reevaluated the needs of a population in the community that could easily be overlooked, older adults from the Former Soviet Union (FSU): many of whom are Holocaust survivors and struggle with English.

“While current staff oversaw the weekly ESL (English as a Second Language) class, which is part language skill-building and part social group, they also addressed the needs that arose for this specific population.



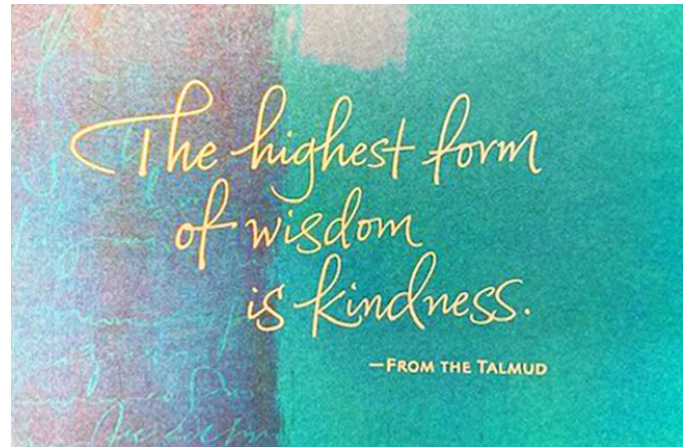
Diana Torres

Advancing age, the stresses of Covid-19, and communication issues all required more services during this unprecedented time,” said Betsy Gamburg, JFS Director.

Accessing services for these elderly clients needed a significant change. The agency’s response was to hire a Nurse Case Manager, Diana Torres, who is fluent in Russian and was resettled in Greensboro herself as a child from the FSU.

One family member shared, “Diana has been so good. She is a good person and has helped us. She calls a lot and wants to know if we have problems. My mother went from 18 hours a week of home care to 37½ a week because of her help.”

“It has been so good for my mom to talk to someone in Russian. Older people can get frustrated and this has been very helpful. She’s made it much easier,” said a daughter. This client was able to get additional supplemental funds for food and help to pay for a new



The front of a thank you card from a client for helping with Claims Conference funding, new glasses, and funds for food purchases.

pair of eyeglasses.

“I am glad my parents have this help” said another daughter whose parents’ homecare hours also increased — to almost 24 hours a day. “Diana has made a huge difference. She has a lot of experience and helped with their doctor. She resolved a problem that was very important to the family. And, she even called me while on her vacation. It was amazing.”

Identifying those in need and developing an individual plan of care is what JFS does in this community. No one, and no group, should be unseen.

*JFS is grateful to Carolina Foundation for Jewish Seniors and to the Leon Levine Foundation for helping make this case management position possible.*



### GREENSBORO JEWISH LIBRARY

The Greensboro Jewish Library is NOW OPEN.

The Library’s books are a combination of those received from our community’s membership in the Jewish Book Council, PJ Library, and donations from private collections.

For questions, please call Amanda Loflin at (336) 852-4829 ext. 227 or email [library@shalomgreensboro.org](mailto:library@shalomgreensboro.org)

## Welcoming Afghans to the Triad



As the U.S. completed its withdrawal from Afghanistan, many Afghans in danger were evacuated. Church World Services Greensboro is preparing to welcome potentially hundreds of these newcomers to our community. They are fleeing retribution or persecution from the Taliban, and have one goal: to live in safety. It is in our power to help them meet it. These Afghans seeking safety will need funds, life-saving services, volunteers and community support.

Jewish Family Services is committed to supporting this extraordinary effort. Contact Amanda Loflin, (336) 852-4829, ext. 227 or [aloflin@shalomgreensboro.org](mailto:aloflin@shalomgreensboro.org) for information about volunteering and how you can get involved.

# TODAH RABAH

We thank the following people for their contributions to Jewish Family Services. All contributions to JFS are used to support JFS programs and services and those in our community unless otherwise specified by the donor.

## DAVID D. FRAZIER FOOD PANTRY

Peter and Pat Levitin  
Rosalyn Marhatta  
Marcia Harris

### In Honor:

Of: Sue Stern  
From: Joan Samet

### In Memory:

Of: Stuart Teichman, z"l  
From: Joan Samet

Of: Barbara Schwartz, z"l  
From: Joan Samet and Phyllis Shavitz

Of: Shirley G. Lynch, z"l,  
and Bert G. Lynch, z"l  
From: Sara L. Hoffman

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.

## JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES

Well•Spring Retirement Community  
United Way of Greater Greensboro  
Peter Guthmann

### In Honor:

Of: Chris Spaulding  
From: Jane Taubenfeld Cohen Fund

Of: The birth of Susan and David Gutterman's two grandchildren  
From: Judy Frederick and Steve Shavitz

Of: Amanda and Kenny Rotenstreich's granddaughter  
From: Judy Frederick and Steve Shavitz

### In Memory:

Of: Barbara Schwartz, z"l  
From: Shelly Weiner, and Judy Frederick and Steve Shavitz

Of: Ellen Gladding, z"l  
From: Marcia and Les Hermelin

Of: Ruth Silfen, z"l  
From: Mia Weinsieder, Sara Hoffman, Irene and Irving Cohen, and Judy Frederick and Steve Shavitz

Of: Paul Saperstein, z"l  
From: Polly and Richard Strasser, Shelly Weiner, Nahomi and Jon Harkavy, and Judy Frederick and Steve Shavitz

Of: Ben Marks, z"l  
From: Shelly Weiner

Of: Stuart Teichman, z"l  
From: Shelly Weiner and Leonard Clein, and Joan Samet

Of: Doraine Penchuk, z"l  
From: Karen, Jeffrey, Sam, and Elyssa Pollack

## JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES Welcomes New Van Driver



Robert Foley

Jewish Family Services welcomes new van driver, **Robert Foley**, who will be driving on Shabbat. Robert works full-time as a Pre-Press Production Coordinator and volunteers in his spare time as a Scoutmaster with the Boy Scouts of America-Troop 17 out of Jamestown. He was also involved with the Special Olympics of High Point as a golf and swim coach.



The JFS Van provides door to door transportation for older adults and disabled riders, and is available for doctor's appointments, shopping, social events and religious services.

Dedicated JFS Van drivers are committed to the safety and well-being of every passenger.

**To schedule a ride, call (336) 852-4829, ext. 222 at least three days before scheduled plans.**

Rides are \$2 each way and FREE on Shabbat through the generosity of donors.



A COMMUNITY WHERE  
YOUR JEWISH LIFE CAN THRIVE.

## COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT FUND

### In Honor:

Of: Marilyn Forman Chandler  
From: Dana Rosen

### In Memory:

Of: Paul Saperstein, z"l  
From: Judith Hyman  
Sara Lynch Hoffman  
Linda Fleishman  
Mark Shapiro  
Elizabeth Cone  
Daniel Pierce  
Arthur Samet  
Gary Simmons  
Bernard Mann

Of: Barbara Schwartz, z"l  
From: Linda Fleishman  
Judith Hyman

## GLOBAL EMERGENCY FUND

### In Honor:

Of: Isabelle Kuller  
From: Dana Schleien

Of: Miriam Kaftal  
From: Dana Schleien

### In Memory:

Of: Paul Saperstein, z"l  
From: Karen Lippy

Of: Bess Soffer, z"l  
From: Dori Jalazo

## 2022 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

### In Memory:

Of: Paul Saperstein, z"l  
From: Meredith, James, Eli, Lindsey and Jonah Grosser  
Amy Zisook  
Lois and Edmond Zisook

## GREENSBORO JEWISH FEDERATION Welcomes New Staff Member



Sara Goldstein

**Sara Goldstein** recently joined the Greensboro Jewish Federation as the Campaign and Program Associate. Prior to joining the Greensboro Jewish Federation, Sara worked within the College of Business at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, Fla. Her previous work experience also includes providing administrative support for nonprofits, including Children's Home Society of Florida and Ruth & Norman Rales Jewish Family Service. Sara is a Florida native and completed her undergraduate studies at Florida Atlantic University, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Jewish Studies,

along with a certificate in Women's Studies. Both Sara and her husband are thrilled to be part of the Greensboro community and look forward to developing meaningful relationships. A self-described introvert that enjoys quiet evenings at home with her animal companions, Sara is eager to discover the beauty that Greensboro has to offer.

# CHALLENGING our community

EMBRACING JEWISH VALUES TO PURSUE JUSTICE **BY HILLARY ZAKEN**

During the summer of 2020, while waves of racial justice and civil rights protests swept the country, Dr. Anne Parsons and a group of other Jewish community activists penned a letter to the Greensboro City Council asking for concrete actions to combat the legacy of racism and police brutality in America.

The letter read: “As Jews, we have learned from the Talmud that whoever takes a life destroys the whole world. Indeed, the local, national, and international outcry at the death of African American men and women at the hands of police reflects how important this issue is to our community.”

This letter to the City Council was one of the first campaigns of the new Triad Chapter of Carolina Jews for Justice (CJJ). The grassroots organization, which works across the state to promote immigration justice, economic justice, and racial justice within the local community, focuses on Jewish responsibility to develop a just way of life, not only for the individual but for society.

Starting with small gatherings, the organization began with a focus on intentional relationship building across community, political and state lines. Community members, many of whom had never previously met, began mobilizing around causes such as drivers license restoration, unlawful evictions of immigrants, and addressing antisemitism.

For Parsons, it was a way to engage with the progressive causes she had always espoused, but through a uniquely Jewish lens: “CJJ is not institutionally affiliated. It is open to Jews from all backgrounds, and all observances. It has a clear focus. And it is truly for all people, regardless of how you practice and your belief in G-d.”

Across the Triad Jewish community, increased awareness of the importance of antiracism work has resulted in the integration of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) education and work into community organizations, businesses, and

schools.

Rabbi Dr. Geoffrey Claussen, who serves on Greensboro’s Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) and is involved with CJJ, speaks eloquently about the Jewish community’s obligation to engage in justice work.

“Carolina Jews for Justice embraces a powerful set of Jewish values that challenge our community to move beyond the white moderate politics that often prevail in Jewish communal institutions,” said Claussen. “The JCRC, with its focus on addressing systemic discrimination and oppression, also offers an important challenge to conventional politics. Both organizations can play important roles in inspiring our community to pursue justice for all people.”

Greensboro’s JCRC, formed in the summer of 2020, is part of the Jewish Federation’s efforts to address discrimination and oppression in the local community.

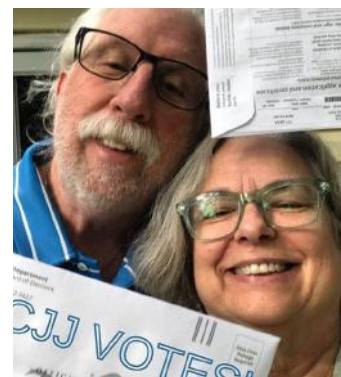
Claussen also expresses optimism about the potential impact of this work: “The JCRC has an outstanding mission statement, centered on addressing historic and persistent injustices and addressing systemic discrimination and oppression. Confronting difficult histories and focusing on systemic problems is challenging, and that’s what gives this committee such great potential. I’m proud of the Greensboro Jewish Federation for supporting a committee that is committed to working for greater equity in this way.”

Indeed, for many members of the Greensboro Jewish community, activism and justice work is an integral part of their Jewish identity and their commitment to *Tikkun Olam*, repairing the world and making the Triad community a better place to live for all.

To carry out these values, CJJ also emphasizes the importance of working



“Confronting difficult histories and focusing on systemic problems is challenging, and that’s what gives this committee such great potential.”



Photos above courtesy of Carolina Jews for Justice



## DR. ANNE PARSONS: Modeling Activism, Celebrating Judaism

with organizations run by people of color, and listening to their voices.

Parsons is a thoughtful advocate for justice, pausing before speaking about the importance of relationship building, and her passion shines through her words. As Parsons explains: “Jewish commitment to antiracism work involves lots of building relationships and networks with progressive organizations. For example, we have a strong relationship with Siembra, a local grassroots Latinx organization working for immigrant justice, and are working together on a campaign to support 18 families who are being evicted from their homes.”

In addition to work with the greater Triad community, CJJ also focused on causes that directly affect the local Jewish community, such as the recent dramatic rise in antisemitism across the country. As a response, CJJ has launched an Antisemitism Listening Project across North Carolina, providing space for participants to share their own experiences with antisemitism.

“Participants are able to talk about their experiences and about what it means to be Jewish in the South,” explained Parsons. “The idea is to get people to talk about their understanding of antisemitism, and their experiences, because talking about it is very personal. In this way, CJJ will get an idea of the lived experience of antisemitism, and this will inform our progressive work, and help us bring the subject of antisemitism into conversations about antiracism in an informed way.”

And, as for many community members, Claussen and Parsons both balance parenthood, professional life, and engagement with activism work to make the world a better place. They both hope others will be inspired to volunteer with organizations close to their hearts.

“Being a parent means my free time is counted in minutes rather than hours,” explains Parsons. “This caused me to hone in on what is most important to me. So I am trying to create a better community, and do it from a Jewish perspective.”



Dr. Anne Parsons  
Photo courtesy of Andrew Bowen Photography

Dr. Anne Parsons is a historian, and a professor and program director at the University of North Carolina Greensboro. She also is a self-identified queer woman, in a queer marriage to her spouse, Dr. Bastian Parsons, raising her family in this community where she has lived for eight years.

A few years ago, Parsons became interested in her own Jewish family history, and discovered a deep and personal connection to the Tuchyn Ghetto Uprising, which took place in her family’s ancestral village a few days after Yom Kippur of 1942. Members of Parsons’ extended family were involved in this act of

resistance, in which the residents of Tuchyn, rather than surrender to the Nazis, set their village on fire, and attempted to escape. Many fled into the forest and were hunted down and massacred by the Nazis, and others died in the fires. Only a few survived.

Discovery of this family history has had a huge impact on Parsons’ current Jewish community involvement. She explains: “Because of this connection, I have become interested in bringing Jewish resistance into my life. My scholarship has caused me to dig deeper, and to look at my progressive values through a Jewish lens.”

In addition to her work with Carolina Jews for Justice, Parsons serves on the board at Temple Emanuel and is an affiliate member at Beth David Synagogue. She is also an advisor to the Greensboro Contemporary Jewish Museum, which along with CJJ, partnered with Elsewhere Museum for programming around Jewish holidays. She strongly believes that part of being Jewish is engaging in the work to make Greensboro a better community overall, organizing and modeling activism for her two young children, and encouraging joyful celebration of Judaism and Jewish identity.

As Parsons shared: “The study of the Holocaust has changed my life as a Jew and inspired me to be more involved. It also helped birth the Triad chapter of CJJ. Even amidst professor-ing and parenting, it’s been so important to have a Jewish voice for making our community more equitable and supportive of all people in it, working to make our community a better place to live.”



Community members gather in the Sukkah at Elsewhere Museum. Photos above courtesy of Elsewhere Museum

## JUSTICE, JUSTICE THOU SHALT PURSUE (Deuteronomy 16:20)

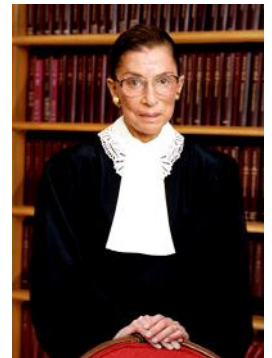
“Justice, Justice, Thou Shalt Pursue.” Taken from the Book of Deuteronomy, this passage captures the essence of the eternal religious obligation of Judaism. We cannot consider ourselves committed to our traditions without firmly committing to making the world a more just and righteous place. This commitment is reflected in many of the grants from the Jewish Foundation of Greensboro (JFG). While the majority of grants flow to the Greensboro Jewish Federation and other Jewish agencies and synagogues, donors also spread their beneficence to numerous secular agencies and causes.

“Each and every year, many of our donor-advised fund (DAF) holders support a number of charities and causes in Greensboro and other locations that serve those outside the Jewish community,” remarks Susan Gutterman, the long-serving endowment director. During the past 18 months she notes there was a significant increase in these grants, clearly in response to the Covid-19 crisis as well as increased attention to groups responding to social justice causes.

“Policies promoting diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) clearly reflect the value that all human beings are created *‘b’tzelem elohim’* (in G-d’s image) and that is the bedrock of our mission statement,” stated Howard Mezer, Foundation Board Chair. He notes that the Foundation is a major source of annual support for Temple Emanuel, Beth David Synagogue, Chabad and B’nai Shalom Day School. All four embrace DEI, welcoming those of different cultural backgrounds, races, sexual orientation,

gender, as well as physical and mental abilities.

The Foundation routinely approves DAF grants to Jewish organizations such as HIAS, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, which is currently leading refugee resettlement efforts throughout the country for people of all different backgrounds, and MAZON, the Jewish national group responding to hunger in



Ruth Bader Ginsburg, z”l

America, specifically for veterans, single mothers, members of native tribes, and older adults who identify as LGBTQ. Locally, the Foundation gave a series of grants to United Way in support of their Covid-19 relief efforts as well as their family success centers that provide a one-stop location for social and family services including childcare, transportation, and vocational services.

JFG also supports the Women’s Resource Center of Greensboro, providing legal, vocational, and counseling support for women in the Triad. The center’s website features a quote urging us “to do something to give back to the community,” from the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg z”l. It is clearly pertinent to note that Justice Ginsburg’s last published work is entitled, *Justice, Justice, Thou Shalt Pursue*.



### THE FUTURE Starts with You

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

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

For more information or to discuss opening a Donor Advised Fund, please contact Susan R. Gutterman, [sgutterman@jewishfoundationnc.org](mailto:sgutterman@jewishfoundationnc.org) or call (336) 852-0099.

#### Mark Your Calendar

CELEBRATING  
**25**<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY

The 25th Anniversary Celebration  
of the  
Jewish Foundation of Greensboro

Sunday Evening  
April 3, 2022

Steven Tanger Center for the  
Performing Arts

# THE ABILITY TO CARRY ON: One Student's Perspective

After graduating high school in spring of 2020, two months after the Covid-19 shutdown, Celia Levy knew that she wanted the full college experience with in-person classes and traditional student housing. As pandemic restrictions loosened, then tightened, then loosened again, she decided it might be best to search for a place to spend her time before enrolling full-time at Haverford College in Pennsylvania.

She landed on Israel and applied for Frontier Israel, a gap semester program for college freshmen and sophomores that is sponsored by the Jewish National Fund. After being accepted, she then applied for the Israel Experience Grant through Jewish Family Services and the Greensboro Jewish Federation. Upon her return to the United States, she provided this reflection about her experience:

*During the escalation of the conflict between Gaza and Israel, referred to as Guardian of the Walls, rioting broke out in some of the mixed cities of Israel, those that are heavily populated by Jews and Arabs. My Frontier group witnessed the unrest firsthand.*

*This past August, sitting at home in Greensboro, I browsed The New York Times and came across Roger Cohen's article, "Riots Shatter Veneer of Coexistence in Israel's Mixed Towns." As I read about the restoration efforts in Akko, I was transported back to the ancient city. I recalled walking*

*through the Old City in late May 2021. I arrived in Akko two weeks after the riots. Calm had returned.*

*I can picture the inviting, turquoise stall doors. I felt comfortable and safe. At the market, a single shop was charred. During our first full day in Akko, my friends and I shoveled burnt spices and cleared the blackened floor. I remember the shopkeeper's optimism and gratitude. As I continued to scan The Times article, a familiar name, that of the spice merchant, popped out. I pictured Shimon Malka's smile. I was reminded of his strength and resilience. I was reminded of Kol Yisrael arevim zeh bazeh, all Jews are responsible for each other.*

The Greensboro Jewish Federation is proud to provide incentive grants to encourage rising high school juniors through college-age young adults to participate in peer group trips to Israel. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. For more information, contact Outreach and Engagement Manager, Maya Gurfinkel at (336) 852-5433 x243 or mgurfinkel@shalomgreensboro.org.



Shimon Malka: top row fifth from left. Celia Levy: bottom row second from left.

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# MAKING CONNECTIONS



## PARTNERSHIP2GETHER: High Holy Days Rejuvenation



Rabbi Michal Ratner Ken-Tor

*Tashlich*, which literally translates to “casting off,” refers to the ceremony by which Jews go to a running body of water and symbolically cast off their sins on the first day of Rosh Hashanah to start fresh in the new year. Rabbi Michal Ratner Ken-Tor, a female Reform Rabbi in Israel, led the partnership consisting of ten southeastern Jewish communities plus Prague and Hadera-Eiron, Israel through a thought provoking, interactive discussion about *tashlich*.

“It’s a spiritual experience,” said Laura Berke Hausman, who attended the virtual event. “It’s a time to reflect and shed some of the heavy emotional weight you may have been carrying around.”

Learning about the origins of *tashlich* and how it has evolved over the centuries, participants read and discussed some of the prayers associated with the ritual. They learned songs that brought meaning to the ideas and values associated with the ceremony. At the end of the program, participants were given the opportunity to share their personal experiences as well as their hopes and dreams for the upcoming Jewish New Year.



## WOMEN’S JOINT OPENING LUNCH Celebrates Achievements

Excitement and anticipation filled the room at a Women’s Joint Opening Lunch watch party along with large blue bags containing delicious lunches by Painted Plate catering. Jewish women came together to congratulate, honor, and remember the ways six powerful women gave back to the Greensboro community over the past year.

U.S. Representative Kathy Manning joined her neighbors and friends for an afternoon celebrating the many accomplishments of Jewish women and answered questions surrounding women’s power and politics. The event was pre-recorded by production studio, Broadcast 2 Go, and streamed online with over 80 screens on and even more people watching. Cheers, texts, and hugs were exchanged between those watching and those who received awards.

Sydney Rojas, a student from Wake Forest University’s Hillel, recounted her experience fondly: “I thoroughly enjoyed hearing from a US Congresswoman, especially as a Political Science minor. This was a great event with delicious food, and I learned a lot!”



Sydney Rojas

Women are powerful and vital to this community. At this event, women were able to be celebrated and recognized for their achievements and service.

Volunteers of the Year: **Cheryl Kersky Hadassah Greensboro**, **Michele Gordon Chabad of Greensboro**, **Emily Kranz Greensboro Jewish Federation**, **Barbara Scheck** and **Helene Bargebuhr, z”l Temple Emanuel Sisterhood** and **Arlene Henza Beth David Synagogue Sisterhood**.

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## PJ Library High Holiday Kits



PJ Library High Holiday kits were a huge hit last year. This year, as pandemic restrictions eased, PJ Library Greensboro decided to do something similar but with a twist.

On September 12, families were able to pick up the kits from under the Federation's portico and join a fun pickup party! Kids enjoyed music, books, and soccer for a short stop before heading home to prepare for the High Holidays.

Twenty-five at-home kits were made by the Outreach and Engagement Manager, Maya Gurfinkel, with help from the PJ Library Parent Committee. Each bag contained: a mini challah round, honey and a dipping stick, stickers, a bookmark, a Shabbat blessings page, *tashlich* instructions and dissolvable paper, a greeting card, a make-your-own shofar activity, and a kid-friendly description of Rosh Hashanah.

Parents also received access to a downloadable fall holiday PJ Library fun packet including recipes, crafts, blessings and stories.

For information on how to get involved with PJ Library, contact Maya Gurfinkel at (336) 852-5433 x243 or mgurfinkel@shalomgreensboro.org.



In-person attendees of the 2021 Board Retreat

## A Look Inside the BOARD RETREAT



Mark Wilf  
Board of Trustees  
Chair, JFNA

Federation Board Retreats occur once every year to help board members and Federation staff assess the current state of the organization, identify and prioritize strategic goals, create action plans, and improve the Jewish community.

On Sunday, August 15, the Federation held its Annual Board Retreat, chaired by Tom Cone, in a hybrid, in-person and virtual, meeting for board members and staff.

Rabbi Josh Ben-Gideon began the day with an inspiring *D'var Torah*, and then the group heard from a sentimental Tom Sloan on the Federation's long, rich history of helping others.

Campaign co-chairs, Ron Yardenay and Elizabeth Strasser, outlined and shared their plans for the year and introduced their theme: Here for Good. A heartfelt reflection on the 2020-2021 campaign year was provided by Ron and Marissa Milstein.

Attendees of the Board Retreat were then shown a video recording of Mark Wilf, National Chair of the Board for the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA), speaking to the Greensboro Jewish Federation directly. "What I admire most about this Federation is the way you are always looking to reinvent yourselves, and redeploing your resources to become stronger and more effective," he commented.

Members of the board and Federation staff then discussed strategic opportunities in six breakout areas and reported back to the group. Finally, the afternoon ended with an insightful conversation with Ivan Canada, Executive Director of NCCJ. He wrapped up the day with a discussion on deepening relationships and inclusive community engagement.

# COMMUNITY

## BETH DAVID SYNAGOGUE Works to be More INCLUSIVE



Throughout the years, Beth David Synagogue has taken action to empower our community to better the world around us. Between hands-on projects, issues-based classes and community trainings,

Beth David has a way for everyone to make change in the Jewish community and the broader community as well.

Beth David Synagogue is dedicated to diversity and inclusion. The senior staff of Beth David was chosen to participate in Keshet's (organization that works for the full inclusion of LGBTQ Jews in Jewish life) year-long leadership cohort, specifically targeting synagogues in The United Synagogue for Conservative Judaism (USCJ). The cohort had approximately 20 other USCJ affiliated synagogues from the Eastern Seaboard. After an intensive summit focused on what it means to be a more inclusive synagogue, the staff continued to work with Keshet to create and implement a plan for LGBTQ inclusion in the community.

This year, Beth David is offering a Melton series focused on social justice throughout Jewish history. It is titled "Social Justice: The Heart of Judaism in Theory and Practice." This course is a call to action and provides a practical approach for achieving lasting change with a Jewish lens. Drawing from classic and modern texts, the course explores the communal connection that compels Jews to support the most vulnerable. This class empowers all of its students to take action and provides the tools for community members to make an impactful, lasting impact on the greater community.

"I'm very interested in looking through a Jewish lens to explore effective ways to pursue social action in our community and the world," said Don Henza, a student in the Melton series course.

Beth David can also be found every fourth Sunday of the month sponsoring and volunteering at the mobile market with their partner, the Out of the Garden Project. The mobile market allows families who are food insecure to get fresh food at no cost. If interested in volunteering, please contact the Beth David office at (336) 294-0007.



Don Henza

## Celebrating DIVERSITY Through Reading at B'NAI SHALOM DAY SCHOOL



The B'nai Shalom community sees the work of social justice as central to its mission. The words of the Torah, "Justice, justice you shall pursue," ring through the minds of school leaders and teachers when they approach their work.

When a committee of teachers first met in the fall of 2020, they hoped to plan a meaningful observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Day and Reading Week. Several years ago, MLK Day became a "day on" for B'nai Shalom for students of all ages to participate in service



Students "see themselves" in carefully curated books during Reading Week.

projects and social justice learning. Reading Week was a weeklong celebration in the spring to spark the joy of reading among the student body. Teachers wanted to build a bridge between these two school-wide events by designing meaningful experiences that would push teachers and students to

think more critically about diverse experiences.

When planning Reading Week, these teachers grounded their work in the idea that books both reflect one's own life experiences and expose the experiences of others. Students read books whose pages were filled with people of different races, religions, ethnicities, and abilities.

School counselor, Perri Hoyt, recalls reading a book called "Ruby Finds a Worry" to preschool students. The story centers around a playful little girl named Ruby who is carefree until she finds a worry. "My class loved the book and was able to connect to it on many levels," Hoyt said. "One of the most special moments was when one student shared that he especially loved this book because 'Ruby looks exactly like my sister!'" B'nai Shalom teachers know that it is important for all students to see themselves in the stories they read. For this student of color, it helped him connect even further to the book's message.

The work continues. Head of School Susan Siegel says, "Academic excellence matters, but in a world full of uncertainty and rising anxiety, character, values and kindness have become of the utmost importance." The board of trustees, school leaders, and teachers work to make the B'nai Shalom community one that celebrates diversity, works to achieve equity, and acts inclusively.



David Heenan and Mo Odum discuss social identity in G-FLI's first official session.

## G-FLI COHORT 3: Identifying Qualities of LEADERSHIP



G-FLI Cohort 3 is off to a strong start. With eleven emerging leaders in the class, this course is designed to be reflective, collaborative, and engaging.

In the launch session on August 22, G-FLI participants heard from Tom Cone and Emily Kranz for a Federation orientation and created their personal coats of arms as an introduction and "get to know you" activity.

In the first official session, Dr. Karen Dyer from the Center for Creative Leadership led a social identity activity where participants paired up and shared their given, chosen, and core identities. Dr. Dyer also had participants complete a Campbell Leadership Descriptor questionnaire to showcase different components and characteristics of leadership in themselves and others.

"I'm excited to learn more about my leadership style and connect with the other members in my cohort. We have a really good group of young people with all different perspectives and backgrounds. I look forward to applying this new knowledge in my professional career and soon back into the Greensboro Jewish community," said Jeremy Reiskind, a member of Cohort 3.

Typical G-FLI sessions occur monthly and are three hours long in the evenings. This 18-month leadership course helps emerging leaders identify and develop their leadership styles while exposing them to leadership opportunities within the Greensboro Jewish Federation and its constituent agencies. In addition, participants will explore Judaism in a unique and creative way and are paired with a mentor.

To sponsor a G-FLI session or to learn more about becoming a mentor, contact Maya Gurfinkel at [mgurfinkel@shalomgreensboro.org](mailto:mgurfinkel@shalomgreensboro.org)



Valentina Turvaville and Genay Peavy analyze their Campbell Leadership Descriptor results

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## TEMPLE EMANUEL: A Continual Jewish Commitment to Social Justice



Temple Emanuel's mission statement lists *Tikkun Olam*, defined as "the commitment to repair G-d's world through the pursuit of justice." Founded in 1907, Temple Emanuel (TE) reflects this in its statements, programs, and even its architecture. Visit the Temple's original campus downtown — the building looks like a courthouse from the 1920's, symbolic of TE's commitment to social justice. The newer Jefferson Road campus is shaped like a hug, welcoming all who arrive.

Rabbi Andy Koren states, "NCCJ presents a Citation Award yearly to leaders in our Triad community. Established in 1964, it's given in recognition of extraordinary efforts to fight bias, bigotry and racism. We are proud that 20 percent of the recipients are Temple Emanuel members."

This generations-long Jewish commitment to civil rights and social justice is highlighted in January at TE's annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Shabbat. A 25-year tradition, this service not only honors the legacy and life of Dr. King, but also brings together those from within and beyond the Jewish community for an evening of interaction, hope, and recommitment to making changes needed for a better world.

Today, Temple Emanuel works closely with Reform Judaism's Religious Action Center and is a regular voice on Capitol Hill through the annual L'Taken Social Justice Seminar for high school teens.

Amanda Beyer Loflin, chair of the TE Social Action Committee, says, "We strive to better our greater community on behalf of the Jewish community. Recently, we had a 'baby needs' drive in partnership with Church World Service that helped Congolese refugees. The generosity of our congregants was amazing. We are currently putting plans in place to assist with Afghan refugee arrivals." For information about helping with the Social Action Committee's numerous causes, please call the Temple Emanuel office at (336) 292-7899.

“We strive to better our greater community on behalf of the Jewish community.”

## The Friendship Circle at Chabad Inspires Greensboro Teen



Greensboro native, Eliana Herman, has been settling into her dorm in Charleston where she is a freshman at the College of Charleston.

Along with figuring out where to shop, the best place to grab a cup of coffee, and how to receive packages, the Grimsley High School alumna says she is also seeking out a place to volunteer with children with special needs.

"It's what we do as Jews," says Herman, who volunteered at Chabad of Greensboro's Friendship Circle throughout her high school years. "It's been eye-opening to see how these children see the world and approach life. They have taught me to be happy and appreciate the smaller things that others may overlook."

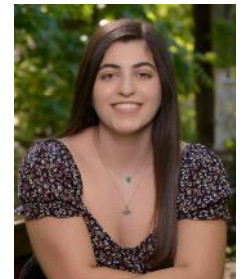
Herman originally encountered Friendship Circle through the local chapter of BBYO and has since recruited many of her friends to volunteer as well.

The Friendship Circle pairs children with special needs with teen volunteers for fun activities and inclusive social events. Following CDC guidelines, the program transitioned to online during the pandemic, with everyone using supply kits dropped off outside their homes.

In addition to learning about Jewish holidays and traditions, led by Hindy Plotkin, the group has recently



The Friendship Circle continues to meet online for fun activities.



Eliana Herman

begun going through the Hebrew alphabet, with songs, crafts, and activities to go with each one.

"We laugh a lot, sing a lot, and learn about Judaism in a way that everyone appreciates and grows from," says Herman. "Aside from teaching me patience, my work at Friendship Circle has driven home the fact that no matter what their abilities may be, they are part of our

community and deserve to be treated as equals. We owe it to them to help them become their best selves."



## JTRIAD Blends Jewish Tradition and LGBTQ+ Activism



When JTriad and Temple Emanuel collaborated to hold a Pride Shabbat service, Emma Coltoff, a board member of

JTriad, and the Temple's leadership spent extensive time brainstorming on who might resonate with service attendees during this special celebration. As someone who identifies as queer, Emma wanted the person to have experience with intersectionality and be attuned to the concepts of transition and spectrums.

While Emma was already involved with LGBTQ+ activism in the greater Triad community, her choice to plan this service was particularly important to her. "Judaism is uniquely accepting and has countless traditions that help us to mark the change from any normal day to a holy day in which we find tranquility in the in-between, the undefined. It just makes sense that our Jewish organization would adopt LGBTQ+ activism into the *mitzvot* we strive to perform every day of our lives."

On June 25th, JTriad joined Temple Emanuel Greensboro in a Shabbat celebration in honor of the movement for LGBTQ+ equality and inclusion. Emma provided impactful, thoughtful readings that touched on themes of Jewish tradition and LGBTQ+ activism while Julie Ann Cooper, the speaker of the service and local activist, highlighted some of the recent victories against LGBTQ+ discrimination and shared her personal experience as a mother to a non-binary child.

"JTriad is committed not only to making a safe space for Jewish young adults in the Triad area, but also to recognizing their unique identities. In the same way that we adapt our events to make all members feel welcome regardless of their level of Jewish observance, we strive to ensure that our members of all races, genders, sexualities, and any other identities are validated and heard in the events that we host and discussions that we have," Emma explained.

Temple Emanuel's Pride Shabbat service emphasized the Jewish community's moral obligation to commit to the work ahead. "We want our Jewish spaces to be spaces where people can be their authentic selves. By not only being aware of but also prepared for the different identities our fellow Jews carry, we can continually and easily make spaces where all are able to actively and comfortably participate," stated Emma.

# SPLINTERS OF A SECRET SKY ANGELA FRALEIGH

October 9 - Dec 11, 2021



Angela Fraleigh, *Splinters of a secret sky*, 2021 (detail). Oil on canvas, individual painting from larger installation, 96 x 72 in. © Angela Fraleigh

In **Angela Fraleigh's** dynamic paintings, female subjects culled from art history become active protagonists in newly imagined spaces. While mining art history broadly, Fraleigh also digs deep into particular stories—often drawing inspiration from specific museum collections. For her Weatherspoon exhibition, she turns to the legacy of Claribel and Etta Cone—the formidable sisters whose transformative gift of artworks helped establish the Museum's collection.



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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.



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



**JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES** presents programs that are designed to enlighten, educate and build community. JFS provides a range of supportive and mental health services to assist our members meet life's challenges. Information on upcoming programs can be found at [www.jfsgreensboro.org](http://www.jfsgreensboro.org) and on our Facebook page.



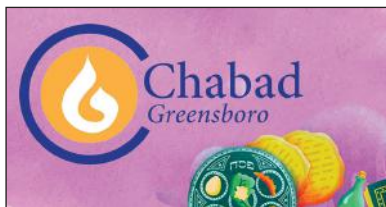
**PARTNERSHIP2GETHER** brings together Israeli and American Jews through meaningful programs for the purpose of creating people-to-people relationships. Information and ways to access P2G programs for our Hadera-Eiron-SE Consortium can be found by exploring the events section of our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/P2GHaderaEironSE](http://www.facebook.com/P2GHaderaEironSE).



**BETH DAVID** is online! Join us every day for engaging and interactive classes, programs, and services; there is something for everyone! Online offerings are open to all via Zoom and social media. More information can be found by visiting [www.bethdavidsynagogue.org](http://www.bethdavidsynagogue.org).



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



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



**B'NAI SHALOM DAY SCHOOL** has been rooted in the Greensboro community since 1970. In a unique environment, students strengthen their intellectual and creative abilities through a dual curriculum of General and Judaic Studies. Through the study of Hebrew language and Jewish heritage, students strengthen their identity as Jews. For more information, visit [www.bnai-shalom.org](http://www.bnai-shalom.org).

Programs such as these are made possible through the generosity of donors to the Greensboro Jewish Federation and affiliated organizations and foundations. The views, findings, or recommendations expressed by speakers are their own and are not necessarily endorsed by, and may not reflect those of, the Federation or sponsoring organizations.

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Join us by registering online at  
[www.shalomgreensboro.org](http://www.shalomgreensboro.org)