

# SHALOM

GREENSBORO



## Celebrating a Legacy of Leadership

Marilyn Forman Chandler Retires  
After 36 Years of Transformative Service  p6

Operation  
Bird Delivers  
Thanksgiving  
Joy at JFS p5

Greensboro  
Joins the  
Historic March  
for Israel p15



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# A Tradition of GENEROSITY



John Cohen

### A Successful Israel Means Respect and Acceptance

On October 6, 1973, a coalition of Arab states led by Egypt and Syria, attacked Israel in what became known as the Yom Kippur War. Do the math — that was 50 years ago. At that time my father, Lawrence Cohen, spoke to the Greensboro Jewish community at Temple Emanuel about the importance of supporting Israel. Having lived through WWII, my father understood that the respect and acceptance Jews enjoyed in America was dependent on the survival *and* success of Israel.

### From Generation to Generation

Dad was eager to share his wealth to help Israel and willing to sacrifice personally for the benefit of the next generation. His hope was that the Yom Kippur War would be the last war for Israel. His disappointment today would be overwhelming, but his commitment would be unshaken. This past October 9 I shared this brief story with our community at Temple Emanuel. The irony that I would be challenging our community to support Israel nearly 50 years to the day is not lost on me. There is nothing I can tell you about the current situation that you don't already know, but I can emphasize the obvious. ***The financial cost during war is unimaginable.*** Now is time for ALL Jews to fully commit to supporting Israel. Hamas must be eliminated. It is time for this generation to live up to the ideals demonstrated by our parents and grandparents.

### Our Community Responded

We thank you for supporting the Federation's Israel Emergency Fund Campaign, and exceeding our goal with \$1,134,543 received in just seven weeks. Now that we have addressed the most urgent needs, we will continue to support Israel and our local Greensboro Jewish community through the 2024 Annual Campaign. Please give generously.

### People Always Make the Difference

I would like to thank Marilyn Chandler for all she has done for our community. Her career has been nothing short of spectacular! And looking forward, I would like to welcome Glenda Bernhardt as our new CEO. The Federation's partnership with Temple Emanuel, Beth David Synagogue, Chabad, and B'nai Shalom Day School has been exceptional in supporting Israel, and building a strong and vibrant Jewish community. I am confident that these partnerships will remain strong and ambitious as we embrace our new leader. Glenda is a smart collaborative leader and a thoughtful, strategic thinker. We are *very* fortunate to have Glenda on our team and leading us into the future.

John Cohen, President  
Greensboro Jewish Federation  
2022-2024



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# ON MY MIND: Reflecting on My Journey with Heartfelt Gratitude

By Marilyn Forman Chandler, *Chief Executive Officer, Greensboro Jewish Federation*



Marilyn Forman Chandler

This is my last column. Truth be told, I've been having difficulty writing it, knowing it is my last time to speak with you, our Federation members.

I wrote a completely different column, recounting all of the many stories of times we have shared together. It was way too long and would have filled countless pages in this *Shalom Greensboro* Magazine.

So, I've decided to share only one story with you. It is what I like to call my Greensboro "origin" story of how I came here. It illustrates how I still feel about our community and the wish that I have for all of you that this community will continue to flourish and grow.

It was still summer 1987. I had been working as the Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of Orange County for 5 1/2 years. Barry Swartz, then our community consultant from the Council of Jewish Federations (now Jewish Federations of North America), called one day to encourage me to attend the CJF national quarterly meeting at the Battery Park City Marriott Hotel, below the World Trade Centers, to come to a meeting of other smaller Jewish communities from throughout North America. There was someone there that he wanted me to meet. I left our home in Middletown, New York, having just barely five months earlier given birth to our first daughter, and headed to Manhattan, about 1 1/2 hours away.

After the meeting, Barry introduced me to Mike Berkelhammer, a past president and member of the search committee for the Greensboro Jewish Federation. We sat together in a lounge while Mike shared with me why I should come to visit Greensboro and consider applying for a position with this Federation. I shared that I had no idea where Greensboro was, and Mike took a napkin and drew a map of North Carolina with a star in the middle of the state. Needless to say he was very persuasive — and after discussing the opportunity with Robert, I decided to journey to Greensboro in October. I had never flown anywhere before for an interview, and it would be an experience. And that it was. Simone and Joel Liebling (the then Federation president) picked me up at the airport, I met Search Committee members including the co-chairs, Joanne Bluethenthal and Bernard Gutterman, rabbis and many others engaged in the Federation.

I remember coming home and excitingly sharing details with Robert. We were both asked to come back, and made plans to do so in November.

I was at the CJF General Assembly in Miami, from which I still have a T-shirt about freeing Soviet Jews and a bracelet to be worn with a Refusenik's name. My mom called to say that my dad was gravely ill and had entered the hospital and to please come home. I was on the next plane out. I wrote a letter to the Greensboro Search Committee thanking them for the opportunity to meet them and that unfortunately, I was withdrawing as a candidate for the position. I still have a carbon copy of that letter. From the time my dad entered the hospital to the day he died, it was one month. I remember it like it was yesterday. It was the Shabbat following the December Freedom Sunday for Soviet Jews on the Mall in Washington, D.C., with over 200,000 people. On the eve of the visit of Mikhail Gorbachev to meet President Ronald Reagan. Human rights was on the agenda. I wasn't at the March because I was by my dad's side in the hospital bed.

*continued on page 9*



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Chief Executive Officer

**John Cohen**  
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Jewish Family Services Director

**Danielle Swick**  
Jewish Family Services Chair

“the wish that I have for all of you that this community will continue to flourish and grow.”



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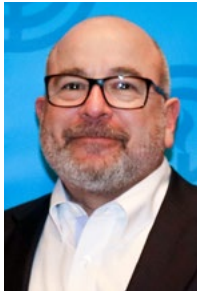
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# On The Campaign Trail: \$53M Raised, Countless Lives Touched

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



Gary Bargebuhr



Michele Gordon

**Small and mighty.** That term is frequently applied to not only the state of Israel, but also our Greensboro Jewish community.

**The Greensboro Jewish Federation has always delivered.** Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) has known that with Marilyn Chandler at the helm, our community always steps up to meet needs to **do good that goes everywhere.**

From 1987-2023, this community raised \$53,000,000 through contributions to our Annual Campaigns. The total number of our contributors has grown 30% during Marilyn's tenure. Additionally, recent special campaign funds include over \$70,000 in relief for former employees of the American Hebrew Academy, \$139,000 for the COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund, and \$200,000+ for the Global Emergency Fund. We have allocated over \$33,000,000 to various organizations and causes both domestically and abroad.

As we transition to our new Chief Executive Officer, Glenda Bernhardt, we ask you to assist

us in continuing this tradition of generosity. Small and mighty are we.

If you have already made your donations to the Israel Emergency Fund and our Federation's 2024 Annual Campaign, thank you. If you have yet to, we thank you in advance for your assistance to **do good that goes everywhere.** Our family and friends in Israel need your Israel Emergency Fund donation for humanitarian efforts as soon as possible. Donations can be made online now at [shalomgreensboro.org](http://shalomgreensboro.org). You have until December 2024 to pay your Annual Campaign pledge. *Toda rabah lah!*

Additionally, we have matches this year. If you increase last year's contribution to the Annual Campaign by a minimum of \$200, the Berkelhammer Family and The Leon Levine Foundation will match your increase dollar for dollar, if you pledge by March 31, 2024.

If you have any questions or comments, please be in touch with us.



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

Please donate now by scanning the code below or by visiting [shalomgreensboro.org](http://shalomgreensboro.org).



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# DECADES OF COMPASSIONATE LEADERSHIP: MARILYN CHANDLER'S IMPACT AT JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES

During Marilyn Forman Chandler's impressive 36-plus years as CEO of the Greensboro Jewish Federation, she has worked with a handful of different directors of Jewish Family Services (JFS).

Marilyn was present on day one of the creation of JFS of Greensboro. The Federation and JFS worked out of a hodge podge of different spaces located in a building next to Temple Emanuel on North Greene Street in downtown Greensboro. Some of the "offices" were unheated, had no air conditioning, and were extremely cramped. The generosity of Tobee and Leonard Kaplan, both of blessed memory, allowed the Federation to move to their current location. The Federation and JFS are on the ground floor, while the Jewish Foundation of Greensboro operates on the top floor. Separate, but also together — and all under the caring, guiding hand of Marilyn.



Betsy Gamburg  
Photo courtesy of Andrew Bowen

"Marilyn believes in community, in Israel, in Judaism and leads from a place of love and wholeheartedness," said Betsy Gamburg, former Director of Jewish Family Services. Betsy also mentioned her respect for Marilyn's commitment to family. "I have never met anyone, let alone an employer, who believes so completely that family comes first." This is also echoed by the current Director Alicia Kaplan. "One thing that really stands out to me about the Federation led by Marilyn, is that during the Annual Campaign telethon, if volunteers come in contact with folks who say they are going through hard times financially and are not able to give, the narrative changes to see how we can support them, and offer the services of JFS."

Jewish Family Services has grown and evolved over the years. As the community has changed, as

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**“Marilyn’s relationship with her directors is a genuine one of respect.”**

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Phyllis Jerome

new needs are identified, and under the leadership of different directors, JFS adapts and Marilyn has helped along the way. "She's always open to ideas — while so many people see obstacles and react with resistance. Marilyn, always thoughtful, sees how to do things." Betsy Gamburg said.

Betsy's predecessor, Phyllis Jerome admired how Marilyn could go in front of any committee or board and have answers ready for every question presented to her; she was always prepared. This level of preparedness also enabled her to accomplish so much through her "gentle persuasion." Phyllis gave Marilyn high praise for her ability to move people and effect change. "Nobody does it better. I always said she got a lot done using 'GP,' gentle persuasion. It is how she leads."



Alicia Kaplan

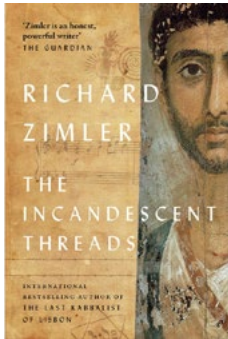
There are distinct differences between being the boss and being a leader. A boss manages staff but a leader motivates and inspires staff. Marilyn's relationship with her directors is a genuine one of respect. "I love her as a true leader, with passion to see what's possible and find the path to make it real — while bringing people with her along the way. Marilyn has always been a hero and role model to me." said Betsy Gamburg.

"Marilyn has been quite a mentor for me as the new JFS director. She has provided insight on how to get support from your board and ideas and resources such as donor stewardship." said Alicia Kaplan.

Under the gentle and kind leadership of Marilyn, Jewish Family Services has flourished. The directors of JFS have worked with Marilyn to create a legacy that will continue to grow with the community for years to come.

check it out

The Greensboro Jewish Library



### *The Incandescent Threads* by Richard Zimler

From the acclaimed author of *The Last Kabbalist of Lisbon* and *The Warsaw Anagrams* comes an unforgettable, deeply moving ode to solidarity, heroism, and the kind of love capable of overcoming humanity's greatest horror.

*The Incandescent Threads* is the latest novel in the *Sephardic Cycle*, a group of independent works that explore the lives of different branches and

generations of a Portuguese-Jewish family, the Zarcos.

The other novels in this series (which can be read in any order) are: *The Last Kabbalist of Lisbon*, *Hunting Midnight*, *Guardian of the Dawn*, and *The Seventh Gate*. All of these books were No. 1 bestsellers in Portugal.

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

## EXPLORING GREENSBORO'S HISTORY of the Underground Railroad

On October 15, more than 20 people gathered with JFS in the Guilford College woods to explore the local history of the Underground Railroad.

Guided by Dr. Omar Ali, a history professor at UNCG, the participants learned the compelling story of a runaway enslaved woman and her infant navigating the very same woods.



The walk included firsthand accounts from Levi Coffin, a Quaker and abolitionist, and the role of free blacks in supporting the Underground Railroad.

The group paused at the "Mother Tree," a 250-year-old tulip poplar, that stands as a silent witness to all that occurred, and was a meeting place for freedom-seekers and underground volunteers. Dr. Ali prompted the group to write an impromptu collective poem while under the "Mother Tree." As the group walked back, many were amazed by the unknown history of the neighborhood and the majestic woods, owned by Guilford College and open to all.

## WARM HEARTS TRIUMPH OVER COLD RAIN: Operation Bird Delivers Thanksgiving Joy

Operation Bird took flight when Cheryl Kersky and Jamie Schleuning were talking turkey — specifically, the turkeys that the Greensboro Police Department were providing Greensboro's under-served on Thanksgiving. Jamie, intrigued, wondered about the possibility of extra turkeys being donated to the David D. Fraizer Food Pantry at Jewish Family Services. A few days later, Cheryl, acting as the Community Connector for the GPD, relayed the good news: JFS could have some birds!

Soon after, Brad Semon at Painted Plate graciously offered space in his freezer to store the Thanksgiving feasts. On the following beautiful, sunny Sunday, volunteers met up to unload 40 heavy boxes that held a large broiler, and several Thanksgiving trimmings.

Unfortunately, however, "Operation Bird-Day" presented less favorable conditions. Battling 34-degree rain, the boxes were loaded back on a truck and brought to JFS for distribution. Over the course of 2 1/2 hours, in wet, cold conditions, the volunteers distributed regular pantry bags, holiday extras, pies generously contributed by JFS staff members, and the much-anticipated bird-laden boxes.

Despite the challenging weather, the true measure of success for Operation Bird was reflected in the faces of joy, a testament to the warmth generated on that cold, wet Tuesday.



# How'd Greensboro get so **LUCKY?**

BY ELLEN FISCHER

After 36 years as the CEO of the Greensboro Jewish Federation, Marilyn Forman Chandler is finally taking her well-deserved retirement. Her leadership, knowledge, kindness, and dedication have been incomparable.

So, how did our small Jewish community in North Carolina get so lucky?

Thank you Mike Berkelhammer, z"l, Joanne Bluethenthal, z"l, Bernie Gutterman, z"l, Simone and Joel Liebling, and other pillars of our community who rolled out the red carpet for her and Robert. Grab a few tissues and read Marilyn's column in this issue to get the entire amazing story.

When Marilyn, Robert and baby Dori decided to take a chance on the Greensboro offer, Marilyn said to Robert, "Let's try it for two years."

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“Her leadership, knowledge, kindness, and dedication have been incomparable.”

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At that time, the Greensboro Jewish community was reeling from an embezzlement scandal at the Federation. Her first job was to build back trust. The Federation was housed in a small cluster of offices adjacent to Temple Emanuel in Fisher Park. With Joyce Shuman as an interim director, and the recently hired administrative assistant Dianne Hines, they went to work.

Her ever-present smile, her dedication, and her strong work ethic came together with our small Jewish community to make her vision a reality.

"She put Greensboro on the map in the Jewish world," said Nancy Brenner, a former Federation president. "We are not a huge community, but we've done huge things, and it's because of her."

Her many accomplishments include numerous **study missions with 1,000+ participants**: 45 overseas, 19 domestic, and 7 interfaith missions.

In the 1990's when Jews were leaving the former Soviet Union, Greensboro was the smallest U.S. city to participate, and that was because of Marilyn. **Greensboro resettled over 135 families**, with 540 community members offering to host a family.

She went on to develop a **global partnership with Beltsy, Moldova**, in 1999, which continues today. Since the partnership's inception, funds have been raised for a library and a community center, and more than 150 members of the Greensboro Jewish community have journeyed to Moldova to help rebuild Jewish life in Beltsy.

In 1991 **Jewish Family Services was established** due to Marilyn's vision and hard work. To date, JFS has assisted with over 900 social work cases, along with awarding student scholarships for Jewish summer camps and programs in Israel. **The Food Pantry was established** in 1997.

She has helped **grow Campaign dollars (1987-2023) to more than \$52M**. And in 1996 she was **integral to the establishment of the Jewish Foundation of Greensboro**. All the while, Marilyn and Robert were busy growing their family with two more daughters, Hallie and Shira.



Mike Berkelhammer, Leonard and Tobee Kaplan, Marilyn Chandler, Sara Lee Saperstein, and James Adelman



Robert, Marilyn, Shira, Dori, and Hallie



1989 Mission to Poland & Israel



Greensboro Jewish Federation Past Presidents c.1997

# 36 YEARS of unwavering commitment



Many cities tried to woo her away. Most she didn't even explore, but a few were very enticing, and worth a visit to learn more. After one such trip to a midwestern city, her plane had just landed in Greensboro when her phone rang. Seeing it was Leonard Kaplan, she answered, "Hi, Leonard."

"Don't you dare," was all he said. Marilyn wondered how he knew. Leonard Kaplan had connections!

When Leonard and Marilyn held their meetings in her small office, Leonard was constantly wary of bumping his head on a protruding shelf. During one meeting, he stated, "Mariland," (his nickname for her), "I think we need to find you a new office."

After searching the city with Leonard's wife Tobee, for office space to no avail, Tobee said, "We're just going to build you one!" **In 1997, the doors were opened to the new space on Friendly Avenue.**

## How did we keep her for 36 years?

The Chandler family fell in love with this community. "It felt like home," said Marilyn.

Certainly, an anchor that helped was B'nai Shalom Day School, which provided a warm, loving, excellent education for their three girls. The Chandlers also thank this community for the unwavering support for Robert in his commercial/residential real estate endeavors and for the opportunities offered to their girls as they grew up here. The rabbis and leadership of the congregations have always been warm and welcoming to the Chandler family.

## If we're really lucky, we'll get to keep her even longer.

Marilyn is not finished being involved in both the Jewish community and the general community, even if it's as a volunteer. With antisemitism on the rise, she is passionate about promoting and increasing Jewish education. And there's always work to be done in "our small and mighty community," as she lovingly refers to us.

*Todah Rabah, Marilyn!* Thank you for choosing Greensboro. Thank you for 36 amazing years of dedication and growth for the Greensboro Jewish Federation and the local Jewish community. We are forever grateful.

“We are not a huge community, but we’ve done huge things, and it’s because of her.”

# CHARTING THE LEGACY: Timeline of Federation Milestones Under Marilyn Forman Chandler

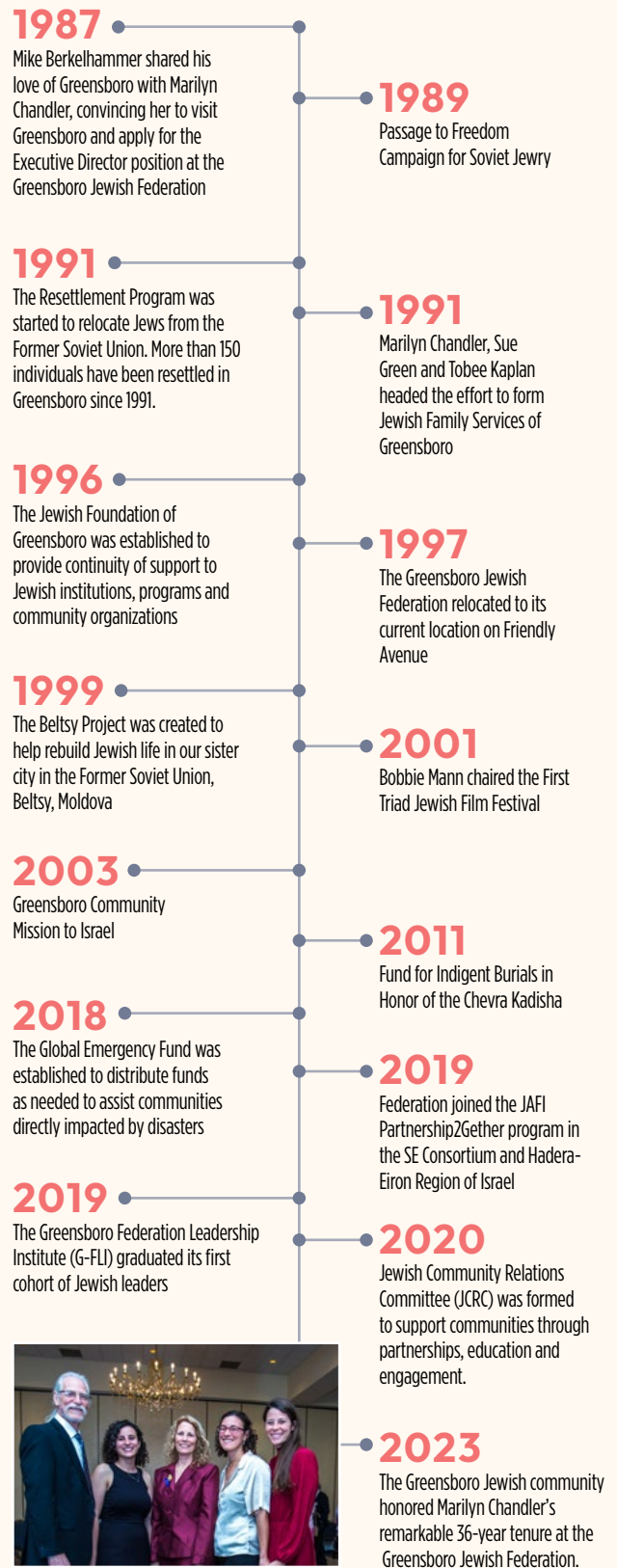


Photo courtesy of Ivan Saul Cutler



JEWISH FOUNDATION  
of Greensboro

# CELEBRATING MARILYN Through the Decades



Foundation Board Reception 2010



Association of Fundraising Professionals

I want to thank you, Marilyn, for your Federation leadership, support, respect, and kindness over the past 26 years. May these blessings be returned to you tenfold in your retirement.

*With gratitude, Susan R. Gutterman*



Early Foundation Board



Jeri D'Lugin, Gail LeBauer, Phyllis Shavitz and Marilyn Chandler



Staff in front of new office construction and Foundation moving day, 1997



Foundation Board 2005



Foundation Board 2009



Foundation Board 2018



Foundation Board 2019

# MARILYN CHANDLER: Reflecting on My Journey

continued from page 2

Here's where Greensboro comes back to the story. The Federation made donations in my dad's memory and called to offer condolences. Joanne and Bernie waited one month, after the period of mourning called *Sheloshim*, and asked if Robert and I would consider returning to Greensboro. It was January 1988, and we were in the Newark airport thinking the snowflakes that were coming down would disappear as we flew south to find sunny, warm weather in Greensboro. We were shocked when we landed in almost a foot of snow in Greensboro! Joann Cassell was the only one in the community who drove a 4-wheel-drive vehicle and picked us up at the airport. For the few days we were here, the community ensured that I had a *minyán* in which to say *Kaddish*. This community of strangers walked to the Synagogue in the snow to make that happen. I will never forget the kindness and generosity of spirit that continues to this

“I will never forget the kindness and generosity of spirit that continues to this day.”

day. And that special, unique quality continued during our visit when Robert was whisked away to meet individuals in his profession while I met with community members. Together we had Shabbat Dinner with Sarah and Jonathan Malino, their family and friends, and were introduced to younger members of the community at a Saturday night dinner. Sylvia Berkelhammer and Tom Cone toured us around Greensboro. We felt like the community had been waiting for us to come. We felt welcomed and cared for beyond words, and that feeling has never left us.

It happened so quickly - the transition from New York to Greensboro.

Before the recent March on Washington for Israel, to free the hostages and against antisemitism, I thought about how I was unable to attend the 1987 March on D.C. to Free Soviet Jews. I was determined to lead our community's 100-member delegation to this March. My father, Harvey Forman, z"l was sitting on my shoulders the entire day. And his namesake, his granddaughter Hallie from Philadelphia, was also marching on the Mall. It was *besheret*. Bookends to my Greensboro story.

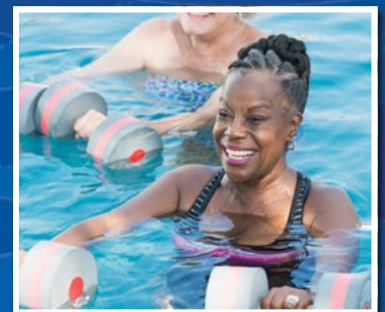
Thank you for bringing us here. We will never forget you.

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# MAKING CONNECTIONS

## celebrate with us

### CAMPAIGN KICKOFF AND RETIREMENT CELEBRATION

Honoring the Visionary Leadership of

*Marilyn Forman Chandler*



Marilyn Chandler  
Photo courtesy of Andrew Bowen

The Greensboro Jewish community united in October to honor Marilyn Forman Chandler's remarkable 36-year tenure as the CEO of the Greensboro Jewish Federation. The evening featured three significant occasions: the Major Donors Event, Campaign Kick-Off, and a Retirement Celebration in Marilyn's honor.

The Major Donors Event started off the evening with a Q and A conversation between Marilyn and Randall Kaplan. The two talked about pivotal moments and key accomplishments of the Greensboro Jewish Federation.

The night then turned into a Kick-Off event for the 2024 Annual Campaign where Federation President John Cohen gave a warm welcome to the numerous attendees. Randall Kaplan then made a moving speech for funding the Israel Emergency Campaign, followed by a song for Israel sung by Cantor Ronit Wolf Hanan, a friend from Teaneck, NJ, which was so heartfelt the audience began singing along. Frank and Nancy Brenner had everyone laughing with their anecdotes about Marilyn and their close relationship with her over the years. This was followed by a video highlighting the impact of Marilyn's legacy on the Greensboro Jewish Federation with testimony from several people in the Greensboro community, Jewish and Interfaith partners.

Marilyn then eloquently delivered a heartfelt speech to the guests, highlighting her 36-year tenure in office. She especially expressed gratitude for the \$200,000 in generous contributions to the Marilyn Forman Chandler Fund for Federation Professional Staff Development and Continuing Education.

Closing remarks were delivered from the 2014 Campaign co-chairs, Gary Bargebuhr and Michele Gordon. The evening's festivities were followed by a delightful dessert reception.



All event photos courtesy  
of Ivan Saul Cutler



Kathy Kraus, Rachel Pront, Cathy Levinson, and Rose Ackermann



Laurie Bargebuhr, Gary Bargebuhr, Michele Gordon and John Cohen



Cantor Ronit Wolff Hanan



Noga Bareket and Noa Balfour, Greensboro Jewish Community ShinShiniot



Marilyn with Greensboro Jewish Federation Past Presidents



Randall Kaplan with Marilyn



Marilyn with Gail Joseph



Marilyn with Frank Brenner



City Council Members Tammi Thurm and Nancy Hoffman present the Key to the City as Frank and Nancy Brenner look on.

## COMMUNITY FIELD DAY: Welcoming Our Shinshiniot



PJ Library and Jewish Family Services hosted a Community Field Day event in August to welcome Noga Bareket and Noa Balfour. When it seemed the rain might disrupt the festivities,

the skies at Country Park cleared right before the event, setting the stage for sunshine and fun.

The Community Field Day was filled with joy and laughter as parents and kids engaged in yard games, expressed their creativity through arts and crafts, and savored delicious snacks. It was a memorable and meaningful occasion that beautifully exemplified the strength of unity with the partnership communities in Israel and the sharing of traditions. Thank you to everyone for coming out for this great event!

For more information about PJ Library events or how to get Jewish children's books sent to your home, join the Facebook group @PJ Library Greensboro.



# MAKING CONNECTIONS



Paula Katz, Jamie Schleuning and Sue Fannin



Jeremy Reiskind and Amit Melchior

## jews & brews

AT STEEL HANDS BREWING

The annual Jews & Brews event at Steel Hands Brewing on Thursday, October 12, was an unforgettable evening, uniting the community with friends, food, and brews.

The atmosphere buzzed with excitement as our community gathered to be united amidst conflict in Israel. The event's success was evident in the fantastic turnout, with a diverse and vibrant crowd sharing laughter and stories. Jews & Brews came at the perfect time — and it strengthened the bonds within the community, making it an evening to remember.

Jews & Brews was organized by Outreach and Engagement Manager Taylor Lively, and Chaired by Koby Ellick. For more information about engagement events, reach out to Taylor Lively at [tlively@shalomgreensboro.org](mailto:tlively@shalomgreensboro.org).



Ethan Savino and Koby Ellick



Event Chair Koby Ellick



Ron Yardenay and Beth Manella





# WOMEN'S JOINT OPENING TEA Honors Community Volunteers

*The ideal Jewish woman: "someone who works hard to reach her goals, stands up for what she believes is right and helps those in need."*

*"Eshet Chayil," or Proverbs 31*



Dr. Pamela Nadell

A strong community of nearly 140 Jewish women gathered for the Women's Joint Opening Tea at Temple Emanuel to honor volunteers who help to make our community thrive.

The program featured Dr. Pamela Nadell, and focused on the history of Jewish women in America. A delicious high tea menu was provided, and volunteers of the year from different organizations were recognized.

A special thank you to Alina Gerlovin Spaulding and Emily Kranz for emceeding the event; the Florence Weinstein Jacobson Memorial Designated Fund; Rabbis Fischer and Gleason; Scuppernong Books; Temple Emanuel; the O.Henry Hotel; and the Planning Committee: Ruth Hoffman, Alexa Horowitz, Alicia Kaplan, Carole Kaplan, Maryann Kingsmill, Hindy Plotkin, and Susan Ross.

## Congratulations to the 2023 Volunteers of the Year:

**Cheryl Greenberg**  
Beth David Synagogue

**Valerie Greenstein**  
Chabad of Greensboro

**Alina Gerlovin Spaulding & Emily Kranz**  
Greensboro Jewish Federation

**Sara Jacobs**  
Hadassah

**Michele Gordon**  
Jewish Family Services

**Marlene Baruch**  
Temple Emanuel

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# TODAH RABAH

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

## JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES

Steven and Rhonda Gittis

### In Honor:

Of: Marlene Baruch  
From: Daniel Stein

Of: Zora Bunin  
From: Sandra Shumaker

Of: Marilyn Chandler  
From: Melody Glick

Of: Geoffrey and Jessica Claussen's Wedding  
From: Melissa Palombi  
Lynn and Skip Schrayner  
Zachary Sitkin

Of: Howie Cole  
From: Barbara Befler  
Eileen Segal

Of: Randall Kaplan  
From: Susan Robinson

### In Memory:

Of: Sheldon Glusman, z"l  
From: Susan Robinson

Of: Sarah Malino, z"l  
From: Pauline Strasser

Of: Helene Avraham-Katz, z"l  
From: David Altman  
Randi Semon

Of: Irving Cohen, z"l  
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Sally Cone

Of: Gloria Altman, z"l  
From: Erica and Martin Weissburg  
Sue and Gary Simmons

Of: Abram Fishbeyn, z"l  
From: Mila Kilimnik

Of: Allan Weissburg, z"l  
From: David and Judith Altman

## WE SINCERELY APOLOGIZE FOR UNINTENTIONALLY OMITTING THE FOLLOWING DONORS FROM THE 2022-2023 IMPACT REPORT

Thank you to the following donors for their support of the 2022 Campaign:

Joy Cohen Shavitz  
Stanley Shavitz, z"l

Thank you to the following foundations whose generous funding supported our programs throughout 2022:

Carolina Foundation for Jewish Seniors  
Enterprise Foundation  
The Stanley and Dorothy Frank Family Foundation  
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Kavod-Shef Foundation  
The Leon Levine Foundation

## DAVID D. FRAZIER FOOD PANTRY

Peter and Pat Levitin  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints  
Barbara Teichman

### In Honor:

Of: Marilyn Chandler  
From: Meredith Arkin

### In Memory:

Of: Tootsie Adderholdt, z"l  
From: Susan Robinson

Of: Mike Berkelhammer, z"l  
From: Stephanie Benson

We apologize if we have missed anyone's contribution. Please call Jewish Family Services at (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.

## ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

### In Honor:

Of: Jack Heenan  
From: David Heenan

Of: Glenda Bernhardt  
From: Ann Taggart  
Kathryn Flynn  
John Lipé

Of: Sabine Spaulding  
From: Rabbis Joshua and Rebecca Ben-Gideon and Family

### In Memory:

Of: Moe & Greta Coleman, z"l  
From: Jim and Adele Coleman

Of: Igor Kilimnik, z"l and Abram Fishbeyn, z"l  
From: Mila Kilimnik

Of: Sarah Malino, z"l  
From: Molly Levinson  
Josh Wachs  
Sarah Levinson Rothman  
Michael and Nancy Marcus

Of: Clifford Gray, z"l  
From: Carly Gray Adler

Of: George & Muriel Hoff, z"l  
From: Cindy Hoff

## CLAUDETTE BURROUGHS WHITE INTERFAITH MISSION SCHOLARSHIP

### In Honor:

Of: Nancy Brenner  
From: Stacy Schwartz

Of: Glenda Bernhardt  
From: Dr. Mary-Margaret Kantor

Of: The volunteers that make this trip so fantastic!  
From: Ronald Milstein

## COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT FUND

### In Memory:

Of: Mike Berkelhammer, z"l  
From: Barbara Pomer and Ed Green

Of: Sarah Malino, z"l  
From: Cristina Drummond Moreira

Of: Howard Silverstein, z"l  
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## CHEVRA KADISHA BURIAL FUND

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Barbie Jacobs

## THE BETSY GAMBURG CHESED FUND FOR IMPROVING MENTAL HEALTH

### In Memory

Of: Beth Vestri, z"l  
From: Stephanie Benson

## ISRAEL EMERGENCY FUND

### In Honor:

Of: Marilyn Chandler  
From: Karen Haigh  
Marian Ruderman & Lewis Weinstock

Of: Mandy R. Lerner  
From: Felicia Doobrow

Of: Sgt. Saul Levine  
From: David Levine

Of: Temple Emanuel, Greensboro  
From: Karla Dye

Of: The fallen and the hostages in captivity  
From: Elizabeth Lydon

Of: Randall Kaplan  
From: Susan and David Gutterman and family

Of: Frank Brenner  
From: Amy and Kenny Fleishman

### In Memory:

Of: Jack Segal, z"l and Leonard Stolaroff, z"l  
From: Jeffrey Segal

Of: Dora and Julius Freedman, z"l,  
Charles Leipham, z"l  
From: Don Freedman

Of: Howard Walker & Howard, z"l  
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Of: Rev Donald A Dye, z"l  
From: Timothy Dye

Of: Michael Berkelhammer, z"l  
From: James Gale

Of: Igor Kilimnik, z"l and Abram Fishbeyn, z"l  
From: Mila Kilimnik

Of: Rosemarie Anchipolovsky, z"l  
From: Iojeved Katz

Of: Clifford Gray, z"l  
From: Carly Gray Adler

Of: Frank, z"l and Shelly Weiner  
From: Julie Weiner

Of: Lawrence & Ellen Cohen, z"l  
From: Carlen Leeser



Photo courtesy of JFNA

## YOUR DOLLARS AT WORK: AMERICANS MARCH FOR ISRAEL



*Brov Am Hadrat Melech* (in the multitudes G-d is praised) expresses the power of Jews coming together in unity. This power was on display on Tuesday, November 14, when a massive crowd of nearly 300,000 Americans marched for Israel peacefully and empathetically in person, and more than 250,000 watched the livestream.

The national effort was led by JFNA, along with the Conference of Jewish Presidents, and several other major Jewish organizations. The logistics involved with transporting, securing, and hosting numerous communities from across the United States were staggering.

Closer to home, the interest in the march was overwhelming. The Greensboro Jewish Federation jumped into action by quickly arranging for transportation to the rally. Within the week, two chartered buses were filled with local community members ready to march for Israel. "I wanted to show my support for Israel and show that all Jews are one community," Greensboro Day School Senior, Emma Strasser said.



Emma Strasser

Marrienne Leff was particularly moved by the singing in the Metro on the way to the rally. "The Metro was a sea of blue and white. All the college and high school students singing made me feel that there is a future for the Jewish people."

The trip was extremely well-organized. Greensboro participants were provided meals, snacks and water, as well as small back packs, professionally produced signs, and Israeli flags. If you were able to participate in person, please send a short reflection to [esneiderman@shalomgreensboro.org](mailto:esneiderman@shalomgreensboro.org).

*Your Campaign dollars allow the Federation to quickly organize support for Israel. Thanks to the Annual Campaign, Greensboro has a strong Federation ready to educate, engage and advocate for the Jewish community. Through the Greensboro Jewish Federation, you can **do good that goes everywhere.***

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## A Tribute to Marilyn's Impact at BETH DAVID SYNAGOGUE



Dear Marilyn,

Thirty-six years ago you moved your young family to Greensboro. That move not only changed the trajectory of your family, but also the extended family you created once here. You created family throughout the Greater Greensboro and Jewish Communities.

We have joined you as you celebrated *simchas* and sat with sadness. Together we have honored the quiet moments during Shabbat and holidays as well as the louder moments of B'not Mitzvah, graduations, weddings, and now the births of your grandchildren.

During the moments at Beth David, you have shown that openness to all you encounter. You show congregants and visitors alike the warmth that is your trademark. Everyone with whom you meet at Beth David feels welcome.

You've said that you accepted the job the Federation because "you liked the hearts" of the people in Greensboro. If you didn't know already, we like yours. Beth David Synagogue is better for you being part of our community.

Thank you for your grace, patience, and *neshama*. We congratulate you on an amazing career and look forward to seeing what you do next.

Beth David Synagogue

“Beth David Synagogue is better for you being part of our community.”

## CHABAD GREENSBORO: Celebrating Sukkot at Every Doorstep



For years, the Greensboro Jewish community has known that a great place to be for Sukkot is Chabad's giant Sukkah - which easily seats 100, and has been the site of many celebrations, dinners, and parties.

But what about those who are unable to get to the giant Sukkah or build one of their own?



This year, like in years past, Rabbi Yosef Plotkin mounted a Sukkah on the back of a truck and drove the "Sukkahmobile" all over town. Stops included private homes, elder care facilities, offices, and the Federation building. At each stop, people had the opportunity to climb aboard, recite a blessing, enjoy a snack, and shake the *Lulav* and *Etrog*.

"The Talmud says that all of Israel deserves to sit in one giant Sukkah," explained Rabbi Plotkin, who together with his wife, Rebbetzin Hindy Plotkin, directs Chabad Greensboro. "We take this mandate literally and do whatever we can to make sure every Jew in Greensboro can have a place at the Sukkah."

Continuing with the "wheel" theme this year, Chabad provided another opportunity to celebrate Sukkot.

Children took part in a "Sukkah Hop," riding in a horse and buggy around neighborhoods from Sukkah to Sukkah, stopping in each one for a brief treat and bit of fun. While the Sukkah Hop is common in larger communities like Miami and Detroit, albeit without the horse and buggy, it's a novelty in Greensboro, where very few families had private Sukkahs until recently.

One Sukkah Hop stop was at the home of Barbara and Norman Billauer, whose Sukkah had been erected by Chabad volunteers. "I wanted to thank you so much for stopping by today with the children," wrote Barbara Billauer. "It made Norman and me so happy! Indeed, we fulfilled the mitzvah to be joyous on the holidays - especially relevant on Sukkot - because of you."

As we think about the Sukkah, and the theme of inclusivity, Chabad would like to congratulate Marilyn Chandler on her 36 years of service to the community. Just like a Sukkah, Marilyn has helped shape an open and welcoming community here in Greensboro.

# B'NAI SHALOM ALUMNA

## Champions Global Education



“Understanding how we give to the world starts with education,” said Dori Chandler, 2001 B’nai Shalom Alumna and daughter to Marilyn Forman Chandler and Robert. Dori shared that Greensboro was initially appealing to her parents because her mom knew that B’nai Shalom Day School could support an education for her and future siblings, allow personal development, as well as provide a sense of community.

“Mom lives her values, she doesn’t just talk about them,” Dori said. “She has been an example of how you can lead a spiritual and Jewishly involved life.” Dori recalled the countless number of visitors they hosted for Shabbat, because her mom always offered space at their table. She shared stories of how Marilyn would provide someone a meal, or visit someone who was homebound, and truly support the Jewish community worldwide. Dori shared that her mom took her and her two sisters, Shira (2009 alumna) and Hallie (2005 alumna) on trips to Moldova and Israel when they were young to connect with the global Jewish community. “I have tried to mirror my mom as I walk my own path.”



Dori Chandler

“Mom lives her values, she doesn’t just talk about them.”

Dori, who now serves as a Policy Advocate for the Coalition for Clean Air, said that her Jewish identity has been a thread through her entire personal and professional life, much to the thanks of her mother’s support of a Jewish Day School education. Dori said her education at B’nai Shalom, “gave me the values and core identity that have stayed with me and shaped me into the person I am.” She shared that her Jewish values rooted her in the “construction of healing the world.” Dori taught in supplemental religious schools for over 10 years, and has served as a leader in interfaith non-profit work. “To know where I come from and my Jewish values has allowed me to articulate that to others.” She works to build the values that she wants to see in her community and be the changemaker her mother taught her to be.

Thank you, Marilyn, for supporting B’nai Shalom Day School, and for helping build the Jewish community of tomorrow.



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## GREENSBORO UNITES: SHINING A LIGHT on Holocaust Remembrance



In November 2005, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution to assign January 27 as International Holocaust Remembrance Day. January 27 marks the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, one of the deadliest concentration camps of the Holocaust. International Holocaust Remembrance Day serves as a date to promote Holocaust education and honor the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust, alongside the millions of people murdered under persecution of other groups, including more recent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

With antisemitism at an all-time high, JFNA recently awarded grants for community initiatives designed to combat hatred. In an effort to secure a grant, JFS Volunteer and Senior Program Coordinator, Jamie Schleuning, proposed a two-part “Shine the Light” program to remember those who were murdered and to stand against prejudice and hatred.

The first part of the initiative will bring speakers to B’nai Shalom Day School to educate students about the Holocaust and other genocides. The second part involves distributing electric tea lights to Jewish families and allies throughout Greensboro, to shine in their front windows in the evening of January 27. The aim is to illuminate Greensboro, and metaphorically “bring light to a world of darkness” in observance of International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

“This initiative is very important,” Jamie said. “We must come together to fight hate. While sometimes it can feel otherwise, the Jewish community does not have a monopoly for suffering. There are many communities that have also experienced genocide since the Holocaust. As important as it is for non-Jews to learn about the Holocaust, the younger Jewish community must learn genocide is still happening.”

**The Greensboro Jewish Federation, Jewish Family Services of Greensboro, and B’nai Shalom Day School will proudly participate in the JFNA-sponsored Shine the Light campaign on January 27, 2024.** To help and be a part of this project please reach out to [jschleuning@shalomgreensboro.org](mailto:jschleuning@shalomgreensboro.org)

## Marilyn’s Youth Legacy at TEMPLE EMANUEL



Three programs which received significant financial support from the Greensboro Jewish Federation have profoundly impacted Temple Emanuel youth and teens for much of the last 36 years. As Marilyn Chandler marks the end of her active career as a Jewish communal professional, these programs will stand as an important legacy.

**The March of the Living:** Hundreds of high school juniors and seniors from Greensboro have traveled to Poland and Israel as part of this life-changing experience. While in Poland, participants see first-hand where Jews lived. They also go where the horrors of the Holocaust took place. On Yom HaShoah, they march together silently with ten thousand others from all over the world, remembering the six million who died and vowing “Never Again.” The second week of March of the Living is spent in Israel, touring the country, observing Yom HaZikaron (Israel’s Memorial Day), and celebrating Yom HaAtzma’ut (Israel’s Independence Day). This program did not exist until late last century. Marilyn helped make sure that Greensboro Jewish Federation subsidies were available so any teen wishing to go on this program could afford to do so.

**L’Taken Social Justice Seminar in D.C.:** Each year, at least a dozen teens go on this four-day trip where they learn about public policy issues and Jewish values. The final day features lobbying appointments on Capitol Hill advocating for legislation in the offices of our area’s elected representatives. Over the years, Marilyn arranged for annual Federation financial support to allow any Greensboro teen to go on L’Taken multiple times. Not surprisingly, the Greensboro delegation at L’Taken is one of the largest, and most active groups in attendance.

**One Happy Camper:** The 6 Points Sports Academy, Creative Arts Academy, and SciTech, together with Camp Judaea, are among the favorite non-profit Jewish overnight camps for Temple Emanuel members. Each summer a large number of Temple youth see these places as their “summer home.” The costs of camp can be prohibitive unless significant financial resources are available. During Marilyn’s tenure, our Federation entered into an arrangement with our area’s synagogues and community members to provide generous incentives for the first two years of camp. Other need-based sources of funding have been made available through Greensboro’s Jewish Family Services.

Thank you, Marilyn, for impacting Jewish youth in these ways. Your leadership has helped Temple prepare our youth for the next steps as they move forward to college campuses or wherever their paths take them.



# ISRAELI EMISSARIES Noga Baraket and Noa Balfour Bring Israel to Life with Educational Programs



**ShinShinim**  
young ambassadors program  
GREENSBORO JEWISH FEDERATION

Noga Baraket and Noa Balfour are ShinShinim (service year Israeli emissaries), high school graduates who were granted special permission to postpone their time in the Israel Defense Forces to serve in the Greensboro Jewish community.

The ShinShinim bring Israel to life through educational activities around Jewish and Israeli culture, holidays, Hebrew instruction and more. Noga and Noa work with the Federation's PJ Library program, Beth David Synagogue, B'nai Shalom Day School, and Temple Emanuel.

Their first community program was held at Country Park where more than 40 people enjoyed bike rides while learning about Israel. "In Israel, the streets are empty on Yom Kippur. No one is driving. Instead the streets are full of children riding their bikes. We wanted to share this experience with our Greensboro community," Noa said.

"I have been comforted by this community. At first, it was really difficult," Noa said. "Mothers from B'nai take us out for lunch and dinner and make sure that we feel supported." Noga added, "Their care helps so much."

The Greensboro Jewish Federation would like to thank the program donors, and Dr. Karen and Josh Gould and Becky and Mark Speilman for hosting Noga and Noa in thier homes. If you would like more information about the program, please email [esneiderman@shalomgreensboro.org](mailto:esneiderman@shalomgreensboro.org).



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# OUR TEAM IS GROWING!



Marsha Cross

**Marsha Cross** is the Campaign and Executive Associate at the Greensboro Jewish Federation. She has an extensive administrative background, including serving as Office Manager for medical and dental offices, working at the American Hebrew Academy, and even working remotely for Israel Outdoors. Marsha is a vivacious reader, and has a daughter, Arianna, who is an Architecture Design Engineer.



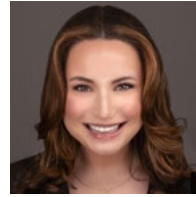
Taylor Lively

**Taylor Lively** joined the Greensboro Jewish Federation as the Outreach and Engagement Manager. Taylor holds a bachelor's degree in Broadcast News from the University of Alabama. She comes from a career as a news reporter which began in West Virginia, and then Greensboro, where she lives with her husband and two dogs. She actively participates in JTriad, and recently embarked on a journey to Israel through the Leadership Together Program.



Bri Nichols

Jewish Family Services recently welcomed **Gabrielle (Bri) Nichols** as Office Administrator. Bri has spent the last two summers working as a counselor at the Eisner Camp in Massachusetts and currently works part-time as a bartender at Red Robin. She has two cats, Taco and Beans. Bri and her husband are new to Greensboro and are always looking to discover new activities. She is honored to be a part of JFS and enjoys connecting with the Greensboro Jewish community.



Carly Gray-Adler

**Carly Gray-Adler** is the Director of Campaign Operations and Donor Relations at the Greensboro Jewish Federation. She holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science with a minor in Jewish Studies from American University in Washington, DC. Carly comes from a background in talent acquisition where she worked for government contractors hiring for the CIA, FBI, NSA and the Department of Defense. She is honored and excited to be a part of the Federation family.

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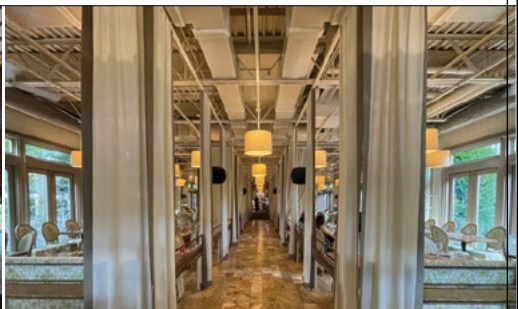
- **O. Henry LIVE JAZZ is Back!** Every Thursday from 6-9 PM in the Social Lobby. See the guest artist schedule at [ohenryhotel.com](http://ohenryhotel.com).
- **Retreats for Romantics** Book the prepackaged or custom-designed romantic getaway offerings at [ohenryhotel.com](http://ohenryhotel.com) or [proximityhotel.com](http://proximityhotel.com).
- **LIVE MUSIC Wednesdays is Back!** *AM rOdeO* (Jessica Mashburn & Evan Olson) 7 PM. [printworksbistro.com](http://printworksbistro.com).
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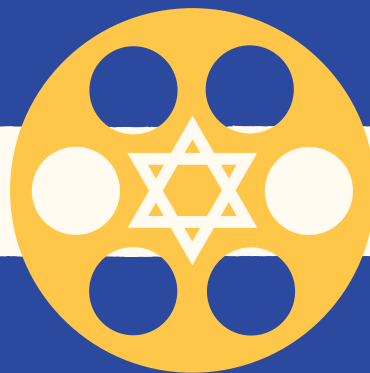


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