

SHALOM

GREENSBORO



Greensboro Jewish Federation Brings Experts Together for Antisemitism Briefing **p9**

Lights, Camera, Community: Highlights from the 2025 Triad Jewish Film Festival **p10**

A Seat at the Table

Stories of Inclusion, Invitation, and Acceptance  **p6**



Temple Emanuel's JEWISH FESTIVAL

Sunday, March 23, 2025 • 11 a.m.–5 p.m. • Rain or Shine



Jewish Food

Jewish food blends tradition and flavor, from classic matzo ball soup to dishes rich in history and warmth. Each bite tells a story, bringing people together with tastes from around the world. You will love all our food and baked goods — we even have egg creams.



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- Why is there an 18-foot stone wall on the bima (podium)?
- The small light above the ark is always on. Why?

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Becoming a Patron or Friend of the Festival is a great way to show your support. With a donation of \$250 (Patron) or \$100 (Friend), you will be listed on our website. Your donation goes a long way in covering the costs of the event. We are grateful for your contribution!

www.gsojfest.org

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Who needs a seat at YOUR table?



Jenny Kaiser

A few months ago, I attended the Jewish Federations of North America General Assembly in Washington, D.C., where I had the fortune to experience many incredible moments. I attended the Israel Rally at Nationals Park (and shared a hug with now-retired Rabbi Havivi, of Beth David Synagogue). I listened to Israeli President Isaac Herzog thank the American Jewish community for its support in the wake of October 7th. And I listened to spiritual leader Dr. Mijal Bitton’s advice on building strong, meaningful Jewish communities.

However, nothing could top the privilege of being in the audience when our own Dr. Buffie Longmire-Avital, Professor of Psychology at Elon University, gave her address. In an hour-long panel, she discussed her research, which explores the conversations that Jewish parents have with their children regarding race and racism.

At length, Buffie opened up to the audience about how the war against Hamas has impacted her own children, who are bi-racial, Israeli-American dual citizens. I listened in tears as she recounted the incidences of antisemitic vitriol her sons have experienced in school during the past 15 months. These acts of hate alienated them from spaces that were meant to shelter, educate, and include them. As a parent myself, I could only imagine how I would feel, had I been in Buffie’s place.

Buffie went on to share a story from the PJ Library, an organization which mails free Jewish children’s books and music to families. The book told the tale of a table which grew larger whenever a new guest arrived at the door. Buffie asked audience members to consider how we could create a table like that—a table which would always stand ready for someone in need of a seat.

I would like to think that our Greensboro Jewish community already embraces those in need. In fact, the stories in this issue will demonstrate many occasions in which we do. However, in this busy and turbulent world, even the most determined hearts can get caught up in day-to-day issues, and inadvertently overlook those who are in need.

So, as I move forward through the Spring holidays, I am challenging myself to keep an eye out for the lonely, the forgotten, the newcomers, and the curious strangers who might quietly be searching for a place to belong. I am striving to make sure that the tables of my life, my home, and my faith always have an open seat, where all can feel welcome and included. I hope you will, too.

Jenny Kaiser, President
Greensboro Jewish Federation
2024-2026



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CREATING CONNECTIONS: Strengthening Bonds Within and Beyond Our Community

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



Glenda Bernhardt

When I think about the kind of Jewish community I want to live in, and the kind of Jewish organization I want to lead, the words “inclusive”, “welcoming”, and “open” come to mind. At the Greensboro Jewish Federation, we strive to build community both within the Jewish population and beyond it.

We aim to build relationships with our neighbors; with friends and allies who represent other faith groups; with other ethnic groups; and with civic and nonprofit organizations whose missions and values align with our own. By focusing on the relationships between individuals, between Jewish agencies, between our Jewish community members, and within the broader community beyond it,

we can create meaningful and lasting bonds with those most likely to uplift and fight for us.

When we know and understand each other, we can take care of each other during times of sadness, sickness, or anxiety. And when we find ourselves in disagreement over practices, policies, or politics, we can listen to one another with compassion and empathy.

The Federation's community relations work is so important, because it is only through building and cultivating relationships that our friends and neighbors can become our partners. This work fosters mutual understanding and enables us to share our needs and our fears, so we can stand side-by-side and support each other in these ever-changing, and often unsteady, times.

In January, I had the opportunity to attend the International Lion of Judah Conference with several amazing women in our community. At this conference, we heard from survivors of the October 7th attack, and from relatives of those who were captured or killed by Hamas.

As the speakers told their stories, it is hard to describe the closeness I felt with them. It was truly a Passover Seder moment—it felt as if I had been there; as if I personally knew the loved ones they were missing; as if their pain was my pain. Together, with more than 1,600 other women, we poured our love and support into these broken, yet strong, survivors...and into each other.

Shortly after returning from the conference, I had the opportunity to attend the Martin Luther King, Jr. Shabbat service at Temple Emanuel. There, I once again felt the power of community. To sit in a room filled with members of our community, along with so many friends and allies from other faith communities, was a powerful experience. The beautiful diversity in the sanctuary was a reflection of the table I hope to sit at every day.

At this table, we recognize the unique gifts and perspectives each of us has to offer. We acknowledge that we are more alike than different, and that we should therefore approach each other with grace, love, and respect.

I hope you will join me in building and setting a table that is big enough to welcome all those who wish to sit with us. A table that is flexible enough to shift and grow as our community continues to evolve and change. This is how we will ensure the strength of our Jewish community, *l'dor v'dor* (from generation to generation).

“I hope you will join me in building and setting a table that is big enough to welcome all those who wish to sit with us.”



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Together, we go Forward: Every Gift Makes a Difference

By Gary and Laurie Bargebuhr, 2025 Campaign Co-Chairs



Gary Bargebuhr



Laurie Bargebuhr

One of the most iconic images for Jewish people is that of the Passover table, laden with traditional foods and surrounded by family and friends. At this table sits an empty chair, with a place set for the prophet Elijah. For centuries, this empty space has symbolized hope, and the expectation for every Jewish person to provide hospitality to guests.

The Greensboro Jewish Federation is very similar to the Passover table. Not only do we hold a place open for anyone in need of a seat, we also seek to proactively expand our table's size. We do this through providing vital services to those we serve.

For instance, through Jewish Family Services, we provide food for those in need. We also help food-insecure people access more nutritious options, including dairy products and fresh produce.

We strive to make our spaces stronger and safer. Our new Regional Security Advisor for Central North Carolina, Bruce Gourlie, has been hard at work implementing critical safety initiatives that will help protect our community.

We reach out to educators in middle schools, high schools, and colleges across North Carolina

to ensure that students receive accurate, appropriate education about the Holocaust. We know that education is the first step in eliminating antisemitism from our society.

All of this—as well as our mission trips, educational events, social events, and emergency funds—are made possible by your generous donations. You are the reason why our table can give so much to so many.

The Federation's 2025 Annual Campaign is now in its home stretch. Under our new structure, it is scheduled to end on April 30th. If you'd like to help

us continue our work in education, safety, and outreach, it's not too late to contribute. To make a donation, please scan the code on this page.

To those who have already pledged, know that we are incredibly grateful for your support. To those who have yet to do so, we invite you to take a seat at the Federation table. **Together, we go Forward** to care for one another, strengthen Jewish life, and help our people whenever and wherever they are in need.

Gary and Laurie

“We strive to make our spaces stronger and safer.”



Together, we go Forward

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.



GREENSBORO JEWISH FEDERATION AND JEWISH NATIONAL FUND-USA PRESENT

STANDING STRONG

COMBATING ANTISEMITISM, EMPOWERING LEADERS

Wednesday, March 19, 2025 at 7 p.m.

At the Greensboro Jewish Federation Building

RSVP REQUIRED
No Cost to Attend



For security purposes registration is required for all guests. Attendees will be subject to a security check, and we reserve the right to refuse entry at our discretion.



FEATURING

Shabbos Kestenbaum, Student Activist

with Alina & Sabine Spaulding

Mother & Alumni, Alexander Muss High School in Israel

As the lead plaintiff in a landmark case against Harvard University addressing systemic antisemitism, Shabbos is a frequent media contributor and congressional witness. During this panel, Shabbos will be joined by Greensboro's Alina and Sabine Spaulding, who will share their own experiences with antisemitism on campus, with Sabine, offering her perspective as a young Zionist preparing for college.

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES: FOSTERING CONNECTION IN A DIGITAL AGE



Sheilagh Harrington
MSW, LCSW

When people think of Jewish Family Services of Greensboro (JFS), they are most likely to think about the David D. Frazier Food Pantry or the JFS Van, two wonderful services that support vulnerable people in the Greensboro community. One lesser-known service that JFS also provides is case management support.

Case management support can mean a variety of things to a variety of different people. At JFS, it includes typical social work services, like educating patients on health and wellness; connecting patients with providers or legal support; and ensuring patients can access all the resources that are available to them. It also means going the extra mile to connect with clients on an individual basis.

Clinical social worker Sheilagh Harrington and congregational nurse Marlene Baruch make regular visits to homes and care facilities, where they spend time getting to know the families on their caseloads. They give clients a chance to tell stories, show photographs, share recipes, and reminisce. For some JFS clients, these visits are often the only opportunities they have to interact with another person.

Connections like this are vital for human survival. According to research by the National Institutes of Health, patients who connect with others achieve greater outcomes

in many health categories, including weight management, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, cancer, and depression.

Many of today's thought leaders have noted that, in the digital age, genuine human connections seem harder and harder for people to create and maintain. That is why JFS

is determined to continue offering these services. The agency wants its clients to know that, when their circumstances are at their most difficult, they are not alone—they have a Jewish community that is here to offer *gemilut hasadim*, “the giving of loving kindness,” and to remind them of their inherent humanity.

Another way JFS strives to support community members is through the newly-reinstated Friendly Visitor program, which matches a JFS volunteer with an individual in need of companionship. If you are interested in participating in this, or any other volunteer opportunities, please contact Jamie Schleuning at (336) 852-4829 x227, or email jschleuning@shalomgreensboro.org.

“Connections like this are vital for human survival.”



Marlene Baruch
RN, MSN



**TEMPLE EMANUEL, BETH DAVID SYNAGOGUE,
AND JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES INVITE YOU TO
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**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2 AT 11:30 A.M.
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MEETING THE NEED: How You Can Help Fill the Pantry



David D. Frazier
FOOD PANTRY
AT JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES

The David D. Frazier Food Pantry is busier than ever, with more and more families relying on it for support. In **Nov.-Dec. 2024, the pantry distributed 12,776 lbs. of food—a big jump from 9,662 lbs. during the same time in 2023.** Although the need increased, the amount of donated food has remained nearly the same, with 6,454 lbs. donated in 2024 versus 6,428 in 2023.

With grocery prices continuing to climb, we expect this trend to continue. Want to make a difference? Drop off nonperishable food items at JFS, or shop the JFS Amazon Wish List for delivery straight to the Pantry.

You can also become a Green Bag donor through A Simple Gesture. To do this, visit asimplegesturego.org and select JFS as the organization you'd like to support. Every contribution makes a real impact on families that are facing food insecurity. Together, we can help ensure that no one in our community goes hungry.

JELF and JFS: Helping Students Reach Their Academic Goals



Jewish Family Services of Greensboro is proud to work in partnership with the Jewish Educational Loan Fund (JELF) to help local Jewish students reach their academic goals. Higher education costs are rising, and JELF is meeting the need by providing 0% interest loans to Jewish students.

In 2024, **473 Jewish students received JELF'S support with \$2,158,564 in interest-free loans.** Of this total, **eight Greensboro students were provided \$36,850.**

JELF applications for the 2025-2026 school year are now open until April 30. Qualifying students will be eligible to receive interest-free loans for college, graduate schools, or vocational programs.

If you can check all the boxes below, you should apply for an interest-free loan through JELF!

- I identify as Jewish
- I am in good academic standing
- I can provide a cosigner living in the U.S.
- My school is U.S.-accredited
- I will be accepting federal loans (FAFSA)
- I am a U.S. citizen (or have lawful status)
- I will be attending school full-time
- I am a legal resident of FL, GA, NC, SC, VA (except metro D.C.)



For more information, please contact JFS Director Alicia Kaplan at (336) 852-4829 x225 or visit jelf.org to apply.



CHANUKAH CELEBRATIONS Bring Joyful Memories



Jewish Family Services brought the joy of Chanukah to residents of Abbotswood at Irving Park and Friends Homes in Greensboro.

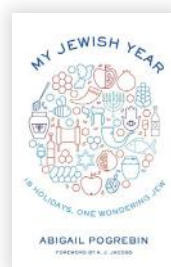
Joined by JFS staff, rabbis, and other members of the Jewish community, guests celebrated with festive music, featuring Rabbi Andy Koren on guitar. Guests enjoyed delicious holiday treats, and, of course, plenty of dreidel spinning!

This year's annual Chanukah Celebrations were filled with light, laughter, and community spirit.



check it out

The Greensboro Jewish Library



My Jewish Year by Abigail Pogrebin

In 2013, a Pew Research Center study called "A Portrait of Jewish Americans" revealed that most U.S. Jews locate their Jewishness in their ancestry and culture—not in their religion. In *My Jewish Year*, author Abigail Pogrebin wondered if that's because Jews haven't looked at religion closely enough.

Her curiosity led her to embark on a year of intensive research and observation about each of the milestones on the Jewish calendar. The result is a candid, humorous, and highly educational journey which captures the full arc of Jewish observance. Whether you're seeking an accessible, digestible roadmap for Jewish life, or would like a fresh exploration of what you've mastered, you're sure to enjoy this fascinating novel.

My Jewish Year is available to borrow at The Greensboro Jewish Library, along with a vast collection of other publications relating to the Jewish experience. JFS thanks the Jewish Book Council, PJ Library, private donors, and especially Arlene Henza for maintaining this valuable resource. For more information, visit jfsgreensboro.org or email library@shalomgreensboro.org.

The Gift of an Open Hand

How One Family's Kindness Shaped Another's Future

Sometimes, it only takes one invitation to change the course of someone's life—and, subsequently, the life of an entire family. That's what happened to Gary Lindenberg when he first moved to Greensboro. Gary found himself totally alone in a new city, until a family acquaintance, Lenny Samet, invited him over to share a Shabbat dinner. It was the first of many invitations that would impact Gary, his wife Mechelle, and their three children.

Shalom Greensboro Editor Avery Hocutt sat down with Gary and Mechelle to hear more about their story. The result was a fascinating conversation about finding community, faith, and belonging in the place we call home.

So, you didn't know anyone when you moved to Greensboro?

Gary: Not really, no. I was raised in the Washington, D.C. area, and I grew up in Potomac, Maryland. I didn't really know anyone here, except for Lenny Samet. He had been doing business with my Dad for many years, but I had only met him on occasion. Once I moved here, he started saying, "Hey, what are you doing for the holidays? Ellen and I would love to have you join us." When I started dating Mechelle, they welcomed her over, too, even though she wasn't Jewish. When we got married, they continued to include us in every holiday.

Was it common to go to his house and see other new people?

Gary: Oh, yes. Lenny always had new people there. And it wasn't just Lenny and Ellen. The entire Samet family was just as welcoming. If it wasn't his house, it might have been one of his brothers' houses. We always felt just as welcome, no matter which one we went to.



Gary and Mechelle Lindenberg with their daughter (far left) and friends on Mitzvah Day, 2007



Lenny and Ellen Samet

Was that the first time you felt a sense of belonging like that?

Gary: Yes, it was. It's strange, because I grew up in an area with a large Jewish population. Half my high school was Jewish. But I didn't feel a real sense of community until I moved down to Greensboro.

Do you think it might have to do with how Greensboro is smaller than other cities?

Gary: I don't think it necessarily has to do with the size of the city. I think it has to do with the people in the community making an effort to be inclusive. Greensboro is very unique. We have three congregations here, and I think they all work really well together. And our leaders here, both at the Federation and in other organizations, they all put a lot of effort into bringing people together. We're really fortunate and lucky to live in such a special place. It's true, Greensboro really has something other places don't. We may not even know what we have here that's so special.

What do you think is the "secret sauce" to creating a sense of belonging?

Gary: I think one of the strongest values of Judaism is community. You know, the hospitality the Samets showed us had a big influence on us deciding to raise our children in the Jewish faith. It especially had an impact on Mechelle, who wasn't Jewish. Spending time at Lenny's led to her wanting to learn more about the religion. And then deciding, ultimately, "This is the way I want to raise my children." I always tell Lenny that his kindness in opening up his home to us really set us on a Jewish path.

“I didn't feel a real sense of community until I moved down to Greensboro.”



COME JOIN US! Your Jewish Journey Starts at the Federation



Whether you're new to the area, or just looking to get more involved, the Greensboro Jewish Federation is here to help you find your place in our vibrant Jewish community.

Just moved to Greensboro? The Federation's **Newcomers Committee** is excited to welcome you! Grab a coffee with a committee member and discover all the wonderful ways to start building meaningful connections.

Members of the Jewish community both new and established can find plenty to do by visiting the **Community Calendar** at shalomgreensboro.org. Here, you'll find events sponsored by the Federation, congregations, and community organizations throughout the area. From holiday celebrations and social gatherings, to educational programs and volunteer opportunities, there's something for everyone.

Parents and grandparents of young children can join **PJ Library**, where families receive FREE Jewish books each month. PJ Library also



hosts fun, family-friendly events where kids and parents can celebrate holidays, enjoy hands-on activities, and connect with other Jewish families in Greensboro.

Passionate about Israel? The Federation offers **educational seminars** with expert speakers, and opportunities to dive deep into Israeli culture through the **Partnership2Gether** program. If you'd like to experience Israel firsthand, consider joining one of our **mission trips**, where you'll build lasting connections with the nation and its people.

Looking for a meaningful way to give back? **Jewish Family Services** offers a variety of volunteer opportunities to support those in need within our community. Whether you are an older adult or a preschooler, your time and effort can make a real difference.

Visit shalomgreensboro.org to explore all the ways to make friends, engage, and build your Jewish community. For more information, reach out to Federation's Outreach and Engagement Manager Nichol Walters, at (336) 852-5433 x243. **There's always a seat at our table!**

Mechelle, were you raised in a religious household?

Mechelle: Yes. My grandmother was Presbyterian, and I was raised Southern Baptist. But by the time I came to Greensboro, I didn't really feel like I wanted to be Baptist anymore. When I first met Gary, we didn't talk about religion much, just enjoyed each other's company. One day, he answered the phone and said "Happy New Year!" to the person on the other line. I thought, "Huh, that's weird, it's September." I looked at my calendar, and it said it was the Jewish New Year. So that was my very first introduction to Judaism. Because, growing up, we didn't really have any Jewish people in Rockingham County. I have a little joke... "The first Jew I met, I married him."

That's so funny. So then when you met Lenny, you got even more interested in Judaism?

Mechelle: Yes, absolutely. Gary and I spent a lot of holidays and weekends with the Samets, and we just felt so welcome there. Eventually, we had a daughter, and we had to think about where to enroll her in preschool. Lenny told us about B'nai Shalom Day School, and we ended up sending all three kids there. We were really involved there, for 18 years.



Gary and Mechelle Lindenberg

Why did you want your kids to practice Judaism?

Mechelle: I felt like raising them Jewish, and us all taking part in Judaism, would make us stronger as a family. I also really liked how Judaism is accepting of all kinds of people. And I just loved the school, the synagogue...I loved all of it. Whenever we attended, everybody was so happy to see us when we came. At first, I didn't understand a lot of

what they talked about. But no one ever made me feel like an outsider. All the services they have were so open and welcoming, and Shabbat felt like something we could do. I loved the community, and I still do. The community is just wonderful. You never know when someone might need a little kindness—and sometimes, it can end up putting them on a whole different path.



CREATE A JEWISH LEGACY: A Foundation of Compassion

When donors create a legacy gift with the Jewish Foundation of Greensboro, they do more than support the future—they share the experiences, values, and relationships that have shaped their lives. Each legacy gift is a reflection of the connections that have inspired them to give back, whether through welcoming others into the community, or being embraced themselves.

Here are a few powerful excerpts from these stories—stories of kindness, belonging, and the enduring bonds that strengthen Jewish life for generations to come.



Shelly Weiner

“I know what it is to be dependent on the good deeds of others. When the Nazis came in 1941 to terrorize my hometown of Ravna, Poland, we fled to Ukraine. There, a farmer’s son convinced his father to hide us, first in the cramped attic of his barn, then in a hole underground. In 1949 we again received help, this time from my father’s uncle, who brought us to Philadelphia...My parents frequently took in guests; I never knew who would be sleeping in the dining room, who would be sleeping in the kitchen. There was always an extra two dollars to give somebody for the bus ride to look for a job, and if somebody needed a coat, my mother would go in the closet and say, ‘Let’s see what we have.’”

—Shelly Weiner



Irene Cohen

“Resettling refugees from the former Soviet Union was a very special thing...it was such pleasure to get an apartment ready for them, to go in and clean it, put food in the cabinets and make the beds...It reminded me what a special community this is when I saw people go out of their way to donate their goods and services—helping with the job hunt, finding translators, donating and hauling furniture, giving extra spending money.”

—Irene Cohen



Dianne Hines

“Working at the Federation...gave me a new family. I do not have parents, grandparents, aunts, or uncles, so I have adopted people within the Jewish community as my family members. I really see them that way, and I believe they see me that way. After visiting Jerusalem’s city hall [in 2005] and speaking with a civic leader, I was so inspired that I knew I wanted to do something to help make a difference. I certainly could not build a school or hospital; but I could do something even if I were dead and gone, and that was to create a Jewish legacy.”

—Dianne Hines

Visit JewishFoundationNC.org/create-a-jewish-legacy to read more of these incredible stories. To create your own legacy, contact Susan Gutterman at (336) 852-0099, or sgutterman@JewishFoundationNC.org.

JEWISH FOUNDATION OF GREENSBORO BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024-2025



Front seated: Jeri D'Lugin, Tom Sloan, Freddy Robinson, Joyce Shuman, Erica Weissburg, Randall Kaplan, Steven Woolf

Back standing: Gary Simmons, Cathy Levinson, Glenda Bernhardt, Janis Fields, Jenny Kaiser, Susan Gutterman, Ron Milstein, David Delman, Frank Brenner, Brian Ross, Todd Schwarz

Not pictured: Sarah Nudelman Schiavone, Howie Mezer, Sam Cone, Joshua Gould, and Keith Rosen



YOUR DOLLARS AT WORK: A Collaborative Approach to Combating Antisemitism

In January, the Greensboro Jewish Federation held an informative briefing on security and antisemitism, bringing together key community leaders and experts. Attendees included representatives from the Federation’s Board of Trustees, local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies; Guilford County schools; and other organizations. The event featured insightful presentations by Meredith Weisel, Regional Director of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), and Stuart Frisch, National Trainer for the Secure Community Network.

The session aimed to help community partners understand and recognize instances of antisemitism in today’s increasingly politically-charged climate. It also explored the work which the ADL undertakes to combat extremism and bigotry, and to enhance security for vulnerable populations. Finally, it reviewed ways leaders can safely and assertively address incidents of antisemitism, and how to maintain situational awareness in public spaces.

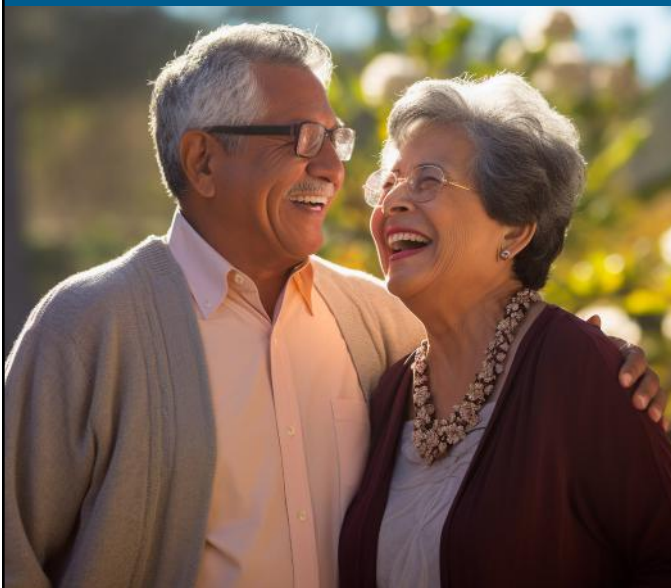
Bruce Gourlie, Regional Security Advisor for Central North Carolina, stated that the briefing was an essential part of collaborating with non-Jewish partners and allies. “Helping local law enforcement and other community partners recognize instances of antisemitism is critical to protecting Jewish life,” he said. “It is also helpful for law enforcement to understand the training that Jewish community members have received.”



Meredith Weisel, Regional Director of the ADL, Stuart Frisch, National Trainer for the Secure Community Network, and CEO Glenda Bernhardt



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MAKING CONNECTIONS

FEDERATION KICKS OFF 2025 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

with **JOYS & OYS**



JOEL CHASNOFF

The Joys and Oys 2025 Comedy Kickoff was an unforgettable night filled with laughter, inspiration, and community spirit! Held at Elm & Bain, the event launched the Federation's 2025 Annual Campaign with a mix of humor, heartfelt stories, and a shared commitment to making a difference.

Guests were treated to a performance by internationally-acclaimed comedian Joel Chasnoff, who kept the crowd entertained with his sharp, Jewish-inspired humor. But the evening wasn't just about laughs—it was also about impact.

B'nai Shalom Day School's Student Council President, Madelyn Renne, delivered a moving testimony about how her school has helped shape her identity. Her words were a powerful reminder of the importance of supporting Jewish education.

The Federation also introduced the upcoming 2026 Campaign Co-Chairs, Susan Feibelman and Brad Semon. Feibelman shared her experience from the 2024 Israel Solidarity Mission, highlighting how Federation dollars have provided medical supplies, food, housing, small business loans, and trauma recovery services to those affected by the October 7th attacks.

Finally, the Marilyn Forman Chandler Woman of Valor Award was presented to Susan Robinson. Robinson's dedication and leadership have made a lasting impact on the Jewish community, and the heartfelt tributes from attendees showed just how much she means to us all.

A huge thank you to event co-chairs Mindy Samet Andrews and Eva Turner, as well as Gary and Laurie Bargebuhr, who are leading the 2025 Campaign. And of course, thank you to everyone who attended! The laughter and camaraderie that was shared during Joel Chasnoff's performance brought a special sense of joy to our community.

With your support, the Federation will continue to feed the hungry, comfort the sick, educate our youth, and help our brothers and sisters overseas. We can't wait to see you at future Federation events as Together, we go Forward!



Jenny Kaiser, Joel Chasnoff, and Glenda Bernhardt



Event Co-Chairs
Eva Turner and Mindy Samet Andrews



2026 Campaign Co-Chairs
Brad Semon and Susan Feibelman





Susan Robinson, MFC Woman of Valor Award recipient with husband Freddy Robinson and daughter Julie Sheffer



Together,
we go
Forward



2025 Campaign Co-Chairs Gary and Laurie Bargebuhr



Madelyn Renne



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Perri Hoyt, Katelyn Cohen-Kivett, Marcia Renee, and Rachel Pront

Kick Off Event Photos Credit: Ivan Saul Cutler

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MAKING CONNECTIONS



The Greensboro Jewish Federation is thrilled to present the 2025 Triad Jewish Film Festival

SIX FILMS TWO VENUES ONE INCREDIBLE FESTIVAL!



Nichol Walters



This January, the Triad Jewish Film Festival returned to Greensboro for its 24th year, bringing powerful stories of Jewish identity, hope, and resilience to the big screen. Audiences gathered at the Virginia Somerville Sutton Theater at Well-Spring and Golden Ticket Cinemas, immersing themselves in a diverse lineup of thought-provoking films.

Opening night featured *Triumph of Hope*, a moving documentary about three individuals who survived the Holocaust as children. Following the screening, a talk-back session was held with producer Lori Strauss and two of the film's featured survivors, Helga Morrow and Regine Archer, who shared their firsthand experiences of survival and perseverance.

Another standout was *Colleyville*, which recounted the 2022 synagogue hostage crisis in Colleyville, Texas. The screening was followed by a powerful discussion with Rabbi Charlie Cytron-Walker, who was held hostage during the attack, and Bruce Gourlie, Regional Security Advisor for Central North Carolina. Their conversation provided deep insight into the resilience of the Jewish community.

According to festival coordinator Nichol Walters, great care was taken to select films within a broad range of subjects. "Our movie selections gave us time to cry, laugh, and remember that even in the darkest times, we can still bring our light into this world," she said.

TJFF thanks its generous festival sponsors, which included Andrew Bowen Studios; Quaintance-Weaver Restaurants & Hotels; Well-Spring Retirement Community; and many more. To learn how to sponsor next year's festival, visit shalomgreensboro.org.



Regine Archer, Helga Morrow, and Lori Strauss



Bruce Gourlie and Rabbi Charlie Cytron-Walker

2025 TJFF Committee Members:

- Dr. Bill Ameen
- Paula Justice
- Davida & Steve Levine
- Anthony Myers
- Immanuel Spira
- Lon Tytell
- Nichol Walters
- Jessica & Matthew Warmen



Friends of the Festival help TJFF bring great films to Greensboro while keeping ticket prices affordable for the entire community.

We are pleased to acknowledge the generosity of the 2025 TJFF FRIENDS OF THE FESTIVAL:

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PAINT, SIP, LAUGH, L'Chaim! A Perfect Girl's Night Out

Girl's Night Out at Wine & Design was an evening filled with creativity, connection, and community. Women from across the Triad gathered to paint, sip, and unwind together. Thanks to step-by-step guidance from friendly instructors, everyone left with a beautiful masterpiece! Guests enjoyed a delicious charcuterie board, sipped on a variety of wines, and shared plenty of laughter throughout the night.

The Federation thanks our 2025 Campaign Co-Chair, Laurie Bargebuhr, and Event Co-Chairs Molly Harbaugh, Michele Slaine, and Lacie Burton, for helping us create a night to remember!

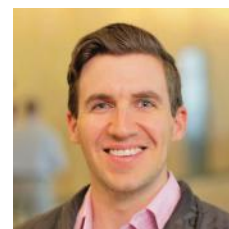


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We thank the following people for their contributions to Jewish Family Services. All contributions to JFS are used to support JFS programs and services, and those in our community, unless otherwise specified by the donor.

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If you would like to become a sponsor for JFS senior holiday gift bags, contact Jamie Schleuning at (336) 852-4829 x227.

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

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 From: Judy Frederick & Stephen Shavitz
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 From: Shelly Weiner and David Weiner



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 Of: Alina Spaulding
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 Of: Michael Kenneth Dunlevy
 From: Rhonda Broder-Dunlevy
 Of: Carly Adler and Martin Fields
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In Memory:

Of: Moe & Greta Coleman, z"l
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 Of: Benita Spritz Brimer, z"l
 From: Mrs. Myra Glazer
 Of: Charles & Pearl Lipman, z"l
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 From: Mr. Jon and Ms. Marsha Glazman
 Of: Joy Shavitz's mother,
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In Memory:

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 Ms. Cheryl David
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 From: Dr. Stephen and Ms. Janice Hyman
 Of: Lawrence Howard Gains, z"l
 From: Leslie, Rachel and Isaac Gains

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In Memory:

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 Beth David Synagogue

YOM HAZIKARON

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2025 INTERNATIONAL LION OF JUDAH CONFERENCE: Celebrating Women's Philanthropy



Emily Kranz, Jenny Kaiser, Victoria Milstein, Susan Gutterman, and CEO Glenda Bernhardt



Emily Kranz



Rabbi Emily Hyatt

Leaders from the Greensboro community traveled to Atlanta, Georgia to attend Jewish Federations of North America's International Lion of Judah Conference. The 2025 three-day event welcomed more than 1,600 female Jewish philanthropists, community leaders, and allies from around the world.

The conference featured discussions on women's empowerment, political activism, antisemitism, and security. Key speakers included **Michal Herzog**, the First Lady of Israel; **Amos Hochstein**, U.S. Special Envoy; **Natalie Sanandaji**, survivor of the Nova Music Festival massacre; **Rabbi Emily Hyatt**, of Temple Emanuel, Denver; and **Aviva Siegel**, a released Hamas hostage.

The Greensboro Jewish Federation is dedicated to elevating the role of women in philanthropy, empowering them to lead future generations of Jewish giving. To learn how to become a Lion of Judah, contact Carly Gray-Adler (336) 852-5433 x237 or email cadler@shalomgreensboro.org.



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- **LIVE MUSIC Wednesdays is Back!** AM rOdeO (Jessica Mashburn & Evan Olson) 7 PM. printworksbistro.com.
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THE FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE AT CHABAD: Where Everyone Belongs



When Ila Rosenthal counts the blessings in her life, The Friendship Circle of Greensboro is high on her list. As the Jewish mother of a child with disabilities, she says the

organization has been a lifeline for her daughter, Addie.

Formed by Chabad of Greensboro in 2008, The Friendship Circle pairs children with special needs with teenage volunteers, with whom they meet regularly and form lasting friendships. Together, they participate in activities, learn about their Jewish identity, and explore what it means to be part of a loving Jewish community.

Jeff Segal's son, Josh, has been participating in The Friendship Circle since 2010. He says that, in Greensboro, the program is unique. "There are, of course, many local programs and organizations that help disabled children," he says. "However, The Friendship Circle is the only one in this area that does so specifically within the Jewish community."

According to Rebbetzin Hindy Plotkin, who directs the program, The Friendship Circle teaches disabled children immeasurable life lessons. "[They learn that] these are people who value them for who they are," she says, "and they learn to reciprocate in kind."

Plotkin adds that the youth volunteers often gain just as much as the children they are paired with. "For some, it may be intimidating, at first," she says. "But they all tell me how much they learn from their friends. They learn to treasure friendships that can transcend verbal communication."

The Friendship Circle continues to welcome children with special needs and their families, teenage volunteers; and donors. To learn how you can join the Circle, visit Chabadgreensboro.com.



Friendship Circle participants enjoy a fun Chanukah-themed craft activity

A Commitment to Inclusion at TEMPLE EMANUEL



The start of 2025 has brought many challenges with it. But they serve as a reminder of a lesson that Jewish people have known for generations: although leaders may change, core Jewish values do not.

Jewish history, both in America and abroad, has made immigration a central Jewish issue. Many Jewish families came to this country centuries ago. Today, Jewish people are continuing to emigrate here as they seek refuge from violence and war. Still others leave the U.S. to find a home thousands of miles away.

Because of these facts, Temple Emanuel strives to treat all immigrants with compassion and respect. This approach is supported by a Bible which stresses the importance of caring for those "not from here" at least 36 times.

The Hebrew Immigrant Age Society, or HIAS, was formed in 1881 to help Jews fleeing ethnic cleansing in Russia and Eastern Europe. It is this organization that has aptly summed up Temple Emanuel's philosophy: "We used to help refugees because they were Jewish. Now, we help refugees because we are Jewish."

Rabbi Andy Koren, Senior Rabbi of Temple Emanuel, recently called for congregants to remember the Temple's commitment to *Hachnasat Orchim*, or hospitality. "As diversity and inclusivity are facing serious tests in the broader public and political spheres, I cannot think of a better time to reiterate the values that our congregation has adopted in its Diversity and Inclusivity Statement," he said.

Within that statement is the fact that the Temple recognizes Jewish identity from both matrilineal and patrilineal descent; that its Rabbis will officiate at Jewish ceremonies for interfaith marriages; and that it encourages interfaith families to participate in congregational and religious life.

Throughout Reform Judaism's 150-plus year history, it has sought to connect with those not currently engaged in Jewish life. Through this effort, it hopes to expand the umbrella of Jewish participation and create a stronger, more vibrant Jewish community.

"Our words are important, and yet it has been our consistent actions over the course of many generations that have made the biggest difference," Rabbi Koren said.

“We used to help refugees because they were Jewish. Now, we help refugees because we are Jewish.”



Reading Week at B'NAI SHALOM DAY SCHOOL Inspires Students to Embrace Differences

Every spring, B'nai Shalom Day School hosts its annual Reading Week, wherein students are encouraged to learn and grow through books, guest lectures, and participatory activities. Staff members choose a theme, and organize materials and activities around it. This year, B'nai's Reading Week theme is "Inclusivity." It will seek to help students understand the physical and neurological diversity in the world around them.

From March 3rd to March 7th, speakers from all walks of life will share their stories with students, and lead activities that will challenge students to think differently about disabilities. Students will also have the opportunity to hear a visually-impaired guest read a story in written braille.

This year's theme was inspired by a professional development lecture on neurodiversity, presented to staff by School Counselor Sarah Cronin and Librarian Bobbijeane Spellman. In it, Spellman noted that teaching children inclusion is essential to creating a fairer, kinder future. "We grow up scared of things that are different from us. The more we can address that early in a child's life, the better," she said.

B'nai Shalom strives to help its students recognize and appreciate differences at all times of the year, not just during Reading Week. It uses classroom materials that represent diverse types of people, and holds ongoing conversations designed to help staff members learn and grow. Its comprehensive Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) programs place a further emphasis on empathy, courage, and kindness.

B'nai Shalom believes that diversity is not something to fear, but something to celebrate. The school hopes to teach students that a "disability" is simply a differing set of abilities. Or, as Spellman stated, "A person may not have all the abilities you do, but you don't have all the abilities they do, either."



B'nai Shalom students learn from books that represent individuals from all walks of life

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FROM AID TO ACTION: The Lifesaving Impact of the Israel Emergency Campaign

As of February 2025, Jewish Federation of North America's Israel Emergency Campaign has raised more than \$862 million for urgent humanitarian needs and recovery efforts in Israel. Of this, \$707 million has been allocated to provide Israelis with basic needs, medical care, education, business recovery, and emergency response infrastructure. Funds have also been allocated to provide Israel Defense Forces (IDF) with much-needed items and services.

Organizations that have received funding include core partners; the Jewish Agency for Israel; the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee; and World ORT. Other organizations include ReGrow, Project Horizon, Magen David Adom, Israel Trauma Coalition, and Brothers and Sisters for Israel. **In all, Federation dollars have helped provide:**



Basic necessities. Emergency funding provided meals, infant formula, and essential household items to thousands of displaced Israeli families.



Medical care. Funding provided ambulatory care, blood services, rehabilitation equipment, medical staff training, and additional resources to hospitals and treatment facilities throughout Israel.



Education. A significant portion of funds were used to give displaced children educational supplies; train teachers and staff members; and erect "pop-up" schools and daycare centers. Funds also helped grant scholarships to displaced young adults.



Mental healthcare. Funds were allocated to organizations which provide PTSD intervention and trauma support to orphans, children, soldiers, veterans, and Israelis at large.



Economic relief. A portion of the funding was converted into loans for small and medium-sized businesses that have been damaged or destroyed during the conflict. Stipends were also given to impacted Israeli farmers.



Military support. Some funds helped give IDF soldiers housing, winter gear, communication equipment, in-field triage equipment, and forensic identification equipment. Other funds helped integrate veterans back into civilian life.



Emergency services. Finally, funds were allocated towards critical emergency response infrastructure, including emergency bomb shelters, generators, air conditioners, lighting, and firefighting equipment.

The complete list of allocations is extensive, but each entry serves as a reminder of the incredible good our community can do when we come together. To see the most recent allocations update provided by Jewish Federations of North America, please visit the Crisis in Israel page of shalomgreensboro.org.



Sheba Medical Center
credit: Nora Berger



On a kibbutz farm
credit: ReGrow



Israeli partaking in art therapy
credit: Israel Trauma Coalition



Delivering basic needs kits to soldiers in the field
credit: The association for Israel's Soldiers

A SEAT AT THE TABLE....

Between October 7th and 8th

This talk will explore what role American Jews can and must play in shaping Israel's "Day After" - the Jewish state that will emerge after October 7th. This presentation features guest speaker and Vice President of the World Zionist Organization Yizhar Hess.



Join Beth David Synagogue on Wednesday, March 12, at Noon for a talk by Yizhar Hess, WZC Vice Chairman, on Mercaz USA's mission and Israel's future. Free event with lunch provided. RSVP at bethdavidsynagogue.org.

DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE TO SIT AT THE TABLE: Vote in the WZC Election



Sometimes, there is a seat open for you at a table—but it's up to you to claim it. That is the case when it comes to the upcoming U.S. Election for the 39th World Zionist Congress (WZC).

The WZC is the policy-making body of the World Zionist Organization (WZO). Each year, it allocates nearly \$1 billion to support Jewish initiatives in Israel and beyond. Funds are directed towards the WZO's own efforts, and to those of other organizations, such as the Jewish Agency for Israel, and Keren Kayemet LeYisrael-The Jewish National Fund.

In this important election, American Jews will be able to choose the delegates who will represent them in the World Zionist Congress in October. The election will take place between March 10th and May 4th. Any Jewish person over the age of 18 is eligible to vote, providing that they did not vote in the last Knesset election in Israel. There is a \$5 administrative fee to vote.

The delegates elected to the WZC will determine how WZO funds are allocated. For instance, they will decide which programs are best positioned to help hostages and displaced Israeli families from the October 7th conflict, and which measures can best support temples and synagogues in the U.S.

Voters choose from 21 slates of delegates, each representing varying political beliefs, religious dominations, and cultural traditions. As a Conservative congregation, Beth David Synagogue supports Mercaz USA, which advocates for Masorti/Conservative Judaism in Israel. To vote for Mercaz USA, visit Mercazusa.org/votemercaz2025.

If you would like to learn more about the Mercaz USA platform, Beth David Synagogue will be hosting an informative presentation on the topic at 12:00 p.m. on March 12th. Yizhar Hess, Vice Chairman of the WZC, will discuss Mercaz USA's mission, values, and goals pertaining to the future of Israel. The event is free, and lunch is provided. To RSVP, please visit bethdavidsynagogue.org.

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OUR TEAM IS GROWING!

Federation Welcomes New Staff Members



Nichol Walters

The Greensboro Jewish Federation is thrilled to welcome **Nichol Walters** as the new Outreach and Engagement Manager. With over a decade of experience in community building and nonprofit work, she is passionate about fostering meaningful connections. Nichol is the founder of Ahava Collective, a nonprofit yoga studio, and the proud mother of Rachel, a fifth grader at B'nai Shalom Day School. The Federation is thrilled to have her on board, and is excited for the energy and creativity she brings to this role.



Kimberly Gleiser

Kimberly Gleiser has joined the Greensboro Jewish Federation as the Campaign and Program Associate. She is a native of Winston-Salem, N.C., and is a graduate of Western Carolina University with a Bachelor of Science in Public Relations. Person-centered care and relationship building has always been at the forefront of Kimberly's work. She has always had a desire to help others, and is excited to continue her career in the non-profit space. She is looking forward to getting to know Greensboro better, and connecting with such a great community.



Douglas Greene

The Greensboro Jewish Federation welcomes **Douglas Greene** as the Community Relations Consultant. Also serving as Director of Jewish Community Relations for the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, Douglas is a former N.C. educator specializing in Holocaust education. He has dedicated his career to combating antisemitism, and advocating for Jewish communal priorities. His efforts have included advancing Holocaust education, engaging with lawmakers, and leading a statewide coalition of Jewish agencies to address rising antisemitism.



Avery Hocutt

Avery Hocutt has recently joined the Greensboro Jewish Federation as Editor for *Shalom Greensboro* magazine. Avery graduated from N.C. State University in 2014 with a B.A. in Communication and a minor in Journalism. Since then, she's worked as a copywriter, content manager, and social media manager for a wide variety of businesses and organizations. Her greatest passion, though, is community-building, which is why she's excited to help *Shalom Greensboro* contributors share their unique stories.

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

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

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Let's Celebrate the Impact of Your Philanthropy at our annual Lion & LOJE Luncheon

Wednesday, March 26, 2025 | Noon - 1:30 p.m.
O.Henry Hotel | Hawkins Brown Room
624 Green Valley Road, Greensboro



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Keynote Speakers:** JDC Entwine alumna Margarita Lyadova joins Anna Allen, JDC's Director of Strategic Partnerships, for a conversation on the power of giving. Originally from Donetsk, Ukraine, Margarita now lives in Manhattan, where she hosts the *People Jew Wanna Know* podcast. A passionate JDC Entwine advocate, she'll share insights from her impactful trips to Dubai, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan.
- **Impact Stories:** Learn about lives touched and projects made possible locally and around the world through your contributions.
- **Networking:** Share your passion for philanthropy with other incredible women.



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Thank you to Event Co-Chairs Debby Miller, Sue Simmons and 2025 Campaign Co-Chair Laurie Bargebuhr. Required minimum contribution is \$5,000 per individual or household.