

SPARKS

CHABAD OF GREENSBORO | SEPTEMBER 2026 / ELUL 5786



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Dear Community Member,

Summer is often thought of as a quieter season, but at Chabad, it has been just the opposite.

From the excitement and laughter of our summer day camp to the warmth of our weekly pre-Shabbat farbrengens, which continued to draw growing crowds, the energy never slowed. Our weekly Torah classes remained in full swing, and throughout the summer we were privileged to serve every segment of our community—engaging our children and young families, inspiring adults, connecting with our seniors, and delivering meals to those who are homebound. Every program reflected our commitment to ensuring that every Jew has a place to learn, celebrate, and belong.

The pages ahead offer a glimpse into many of these meaningful moments and the incredible people who make them possible. We hope you enjoy reading about another vibrant season of Jewish life in Greensboro.

As we prepare to welcome the New Year, we wish you and your family a happy, healthy, and sweet year, filled with blessings, joy, and continued growth.

Warmly,

Rabbi Yosef & Hindy Plotkin
Co-Directors

RECIPE

Apple Puffed Pastry Tarts

An easy four-ingredient dessert that's perfect for Rosh Hashanah.



Ingredients:

- » 4 apples
- » 1 package puff pastry, thawed
- » ½ cup granulated sugar
- » 1 tablespoon cinnamon

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 375°F and line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
2. Slice apples into ½-inch rings and remove the cores.
3. Cut puff pastry into strips and wrap around each apple ring.
4. Mix the sugar and cinnamon, then coat each wrapped apple ring.
5. Place on the baking sheet and bake for 40–45 minutes, until golden brown and crisp.
6. Serve warm, plain or with vanilla ice cream.

CAMPERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE: GIVING BACK THROUGH COMMUNITY SERVICE

Every week, the campers of Camp Gan Israel are discovering that summer is not only about fun, friendship, and adventure — it is also about making a difference in the lives of others.

As part of their weekly schedule, campers volunteer at the Jewish Family Services Food Pantry, helping organize, prepare, and support an important resource for families in our community. Through this hands-on experience, campers learn the value of kindness, responsibility, and giving back.

A special highlight of the Community Service program has been the campers' visits to Friends Homes West, where they spend meaningful time with senior residents through interactive activities, creative baking projects, and engaging learning experiences. These moments bring generations together, creating connections filled with smiles, conversation, and



shared joy.

The program is led by the amazing shlucha, Rebbetzin Hindy Plotkin, whose dedication and vision have helped create these impactful opportunities for the campers and the broader community.

Esther Gert, a local resident, shared her appreciation after spending time with

the campers: "It was absolutely beautiful. The children were so well-mannered, interactive, and organized. You could see how much thought and care went into every activity. It was a pleasure having them here."

Through these weekly experiences, Camp Gan Israel campers are learning one of the greatest lessons of all: that a small act of kindness can make a big impact. By serving others and building relationships across generations, they are helping create a stronger, more connected community.

BUILDING BUSINESSES, BUILDING COMMUNITY

Greensboro is welcoming a growing number of Jewish-owned businesses that are bringing more than economic growth — they are bringing a commitment to strengthening Jewish life.

These new businesses represent a wide range of industries, from real estate and manufacturing to distribution, healthcare, and beyond. While their fields may be different, many of these entrepreneurs share a common vision: to become active partners in the community they now call home.

Through partnerships with Chabad, these business owners are helping create new opportunities for connection, supporting programs, and investing in the future of Jewish life in Greensboro. They recognize that a strong Jewish community is built not only through institutions, but also through individuals who choose to participate, contribute, and build relationships.



This growing involvement is in addition to the ongoing role Chabad plays in welcoming Jewish business visitors during the Furniture Market. Chabad provides hospitality, kosher resources, and meaningful opportunities for connection for Jewish professionals who come to the Triad from around the world.

For many of these entrepreneurs, business is not simply about building a successful company. It is also about using their success as a means of giving back and making a lasting impact.

One recently relocated business owner, **Mr. Bernard Warman** of Modular Closets said, “When we moved to Greensboro, we were looking for more than just a place to grow our business. We wanted a community where our family could feel connected. Chabad became our gateway to Jewish life — a place where we met people, built friendships, and truly felt welcomed.”

SHABBAT 250: CELEBRATING 250 YEARS OF AMERICA

As part of America’s 250th anniversary celebration, Chabad of Greensboro welcomed Rabbi and Mrs. **Shua Hecht** of Washington, D.C., for a memorable Shabbat 250 weekend.

A highlight of the weekend was the special Shabbat Dinner celebrating 250 years of America, which brought the community together to reflect on the extraordinary blessings of religious freedom and the unique role Jews have played in the American story.

Throughout the weekend, Rabbi and Mrs. Hecht shared fascinating firsthand stories from the nation’s capital. From kosherizing the White House kitchen for Chanukah celebrations to coordinating Chabad activities at the White House and on Capitol Hill, they offered an inspiring behind-the-scenes look at Jewish life in the halls of American leadership.

Rabbi and Mrs. Hecht addressed the community at the pre-

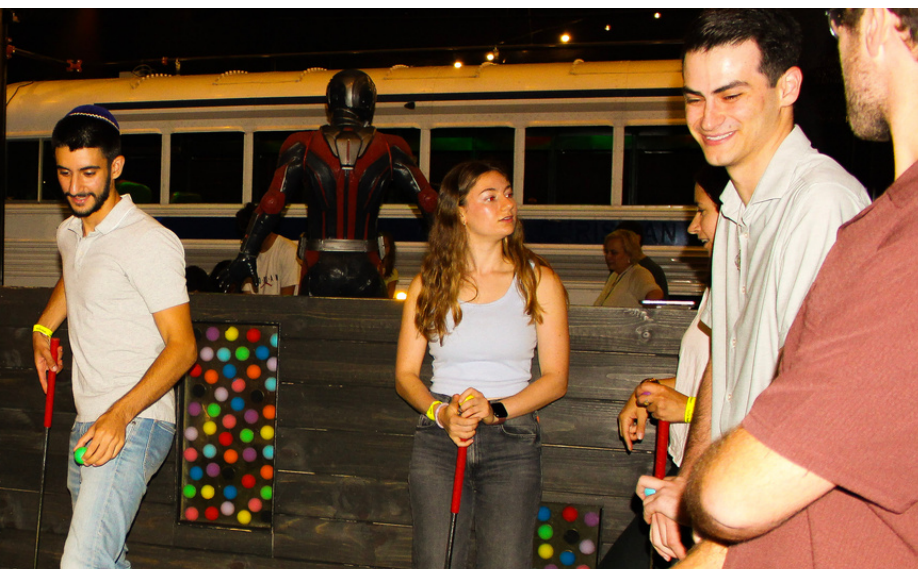


Shabbat farbrengen, Shabbat morning services, and the Shabbat lunch, sharing meaningful insights into Jewish pride, public service, and the remarkable opportunities America provides for Torah and mitzvos to flourish. Their stories and reflections made the entire weekend both engaging and uplifting.

The program was exceptionally well received by all who attended.

“I came expecting interesting stories,” Chabad Community Member, **Simara Levy** shared, “but I left with a renewed appreciation for America, for Chabad’s impact, and for what it means to live proudly as a Jew. It was truly unforgettable.”

As we commemorate 250 years of America, Shabbat 250 reminded us to cherish the freedoms we enjoy while recommitting ourselves to strengthening Jewish life and sharing the light of Judaism wherever we are.







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JOIN GREENSBORO'S
JEWISH WOMEN FOR A

Pre-Rosh Hashanah

MEGA Challah Bake

Featuring The Challah Mom

Enjoy an evening of Jewish
unity, inspiration and fun, as
we knead delicious challah to
adorn our Rosh Hashana tables.

*For women and girls age 12 and up
Savor the flavors of our bowl
extravaganza!*

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2
DOORS OPEN 6:30 PM
PROGRAM BEGINS 7:00 PM
STARMOUNT FOREST COUNTRY CLUB
1 SAM SNEAD RD

COVERT \$36/PER PERSON
Pre-registration required
www.ChabadGreensboro.com/Challah

COMMITTEE:

Lizzie Applebaum	Karen Gould	Debby Miller	Stacy Schneid	Charlotte Tittlebaum
Mindy Andrews	Emily Gray	Renee Miller	Lolly Schweninger	Leslye Tuck
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