

# Two Programs to Celebrate the Second Anniversary of the Stan Greenspon Center for Peace and Social Justice

By Talli Dippold

In Hebrew, each letter corresponds to a number. The letter bet represents the number two which is the anniversary the Stan Greenspon Center for Peace and Social Justice at Queens University of Charlotte is celebrating this fall. The Hebrew letter bet has great symbolism. It is the first letter of the Torah as in the word bereishit meaning "in the beginning." It is the first letter of the word brachah which means "blessing" and opens most words of Hebrew prayer.

One month ago, the Stan Greenspon Center celebrated its second anniversary. We are taking this fall to reflect on our beginnings and to reflect on our blessings. We have learned a lot and grown over the past two years. We are looking forward to an incredible year ahead of touching and transforming thousands of lives as we support teachers and students in expanding their Holocaust and human rights education.

Our anniversary is also time of gratitude as we thank all of those who have supported us during our inaugural years. We could not have achieved such success

without our invaluable sustainers. We are especially grateful to Stan Greenspon and his family for his vision that allowed the Center to flourish over the past two years.

In the spirit of our second anniversary, we would like to highlight two remarkable programs and initiatives that go hand in hand.

On December 13, we will be hosting a reading of an original play written by Charles LaBorde, directed by Dennis Delamar and produced by Three Bone Theater – all luminaries of the Charlotte theater community. The script, adapted from Dr. Susan Cernyak-Spatz's autobiography *Protective Custody Prisoner: 34042*, captures riveting experiences of her Auschwitz-Birkenau internment as well as the eventual liberation of this well-known Charlotte Holocaust survivor. The evening will celebrate all of our Charlotte community's more than three dozen Holocaust survivors and the successes of our first two years. Please save the date and plan on joining us for refreshments following the reading. The second anniversary celebration is made possible through the gener-

osity of Pinnacle Financial Partners and the support of Jewish Family Services of Charlotte.

As we know, sadly, we are losing many of our survivors — and with them, we are losing the firsthand recollections of their experiences. It is our responsibility as a community to capture their testimony and become their voice when they are no longer with us. Time and time again we hear from our educators that the most impactful programs involve hearing from a witness. Short of not being able to hear from the survivors themselves, we are creating an opportunity to hear from their descendants, of which I am one. All four of my grandparents are survivors.

The Stan Greenspon Center, in partnership with the Museum of Jewish Heritage, is thrilled to offer their Heritage Testimonies® Program here in Charlotte starting in November. With the trained help of the Greenspon

Center staff, participating second and third generation descendants will create presentations that can be used to help school groups and other audiences connect with the history and messages of the Holocaust. Elie Wiesel said, "When you listen to a witness, you become a witness." The Greenspon Center is honored to be part of keeping the message of the survivors alive for future generations.

For more information on either of our second anniversary programs, or to apply to the Heritage Testimonies® Program for second and third generation descendants, please contact Talia Goldman at goldmant@queens.edu. Space will be limited and there will be an application process.

As we move forward, we invite you to join us for one of our numerous lectures or courses, for a Shabbat dinner, tour, or at one of our many events. To see all that we have to offer, visit StanGreensponCenter.org. ✨



**More from The Greenspon Center**

**TGIF Torah Yoga**  
 Rabbi Judy Schindler, Sklut Professor of Jewish Studies with Shelley Bear and Aly Faber, RYT Yoga Instructors  
 Friday mornings, October 26, November 30, December 7, January 25, February 22, March 22, April 12,  
 10:40-11:40 AM  
 Location: Queens University Levine Center for Wellness  
 Free and open to the public

**Art of Ethical Speech**  
 Dr. Marcy Goldstein  
 Option #1 - Four session evening course  
 Tuesday evenings, October 2, 9, 16, and 30, 7 to 9 PM  
 Cost: \$125

**Option #2 - One-day retreat**  
 Sunday, January 13, 2019  
 from 10 AM-6 PM Cost: \$125  
 All classes/lectures/programs will be held at Queens University, 1900 Selwyn Ave, Charlotte, NC 28274.

# Ivan Cooper Represents US in Middle East Diplomacy Program

Upon the recommendation of the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA), Principal Ivan Cooper was invited by the U.S. Consulate General Jerusalem to participate in a public diplomacy program on public-private partnerships (P3s), infrastructure management, and water/wastewater management, distribution, and regulation in the Palestinian Authority (PA) territories regarding the sale and reuse of treated wastewater. Ivan was the sole representative from the U.S. for the program.

The establishment of P3s for wastewater is part of a strategy for supporting the PA in building credible institutions of governance, building confidence in public administration, and being a good neighbor for Israel (note: if the PA was able to properly treat its wastewater instead of sending it to Israel, it would lessen some water-focused tension). This mission was considered a high priority by the White House as it is a major U.S. priority to help move the Palestinian economy from its current state of excessive donor dependence to a model of health and sustainable private sector-led investment, growth, and job creation.

According to a recent study, there are currently a number of wastewater treatment plants in various stages of development in the West Bank, but a regulatory framework for P3s is needed to govern the sale and reuse of the wastewater. The eventual adoption of P3s could benefit the Palestinian people by providing

a more efficient system for water distribution in a region where water scarcity issues are a major health, sanitation, and security issue.

During his stay in the Middle East in July, Ivan worked with the

topics in the West Bank and Gaza. The voyage was a very successful diplomatic effort.

To see Ivan's full presentation to the PA, click <https://www.facebook.com/USConGenJerusalem/videos/10156434079939333/>. ✨



Ivan Cooper speaks on wastewater issues in the PA while in Jerusalem.

Office of the Quartet, the Palestinian Water Authority, the World Bank, representatives of both the Dutch and German governments, numerous other Palestinian Ministries, farmers, and business people to share his expertise. In addition, he reviewed a number of wastewater treatment facilities and reuse sites, and made an overview presentation to the PA, various ministers, and other stakeholders. Ivan presented on current conditions, observations, suggestions for improvements, and a possible path forward toward water independence, P3s, waste conservation, organizational structure, funding, and related

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