

# The Charlotte JEWISH news

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## Israel@70 Celebrations Continue on January 25 Featuring Israeli Story

### An Unforgettable Blend of Storytelling, Live Music, and Dazzling Visuals

Join us as we mark 70 years of statehood by exploring Israel's extraordinary people, culture, history, and politics. Speakers, performers, artists, and celebrations will showcase the complexity and diversity of contemporary Israel in a series of programs designed to entertain, educate, and inspire. We look forward to celebrating Israel's 70th birthday with you.

The number 70 has always been important throughout Jewish tradition. When Jacob's family went down to Egypt, they numbered "seventy souls." Moses was commanded to appoint 70 elders to help him govern Israel. The Midrash tells us that Torah is so wonderfully multifaceted as to have 70 "faces." After the Tower of Babel, humankind separated into 70 nations, each with their own language. 70, then, has a long history of exemplifying both the unity and the diversity of the Jewish experience. And now, we're

thrilled to mark Israel's 70th birthday, a special occasion for the global Jewish community to rejoice in 70 years of independence, vitality, strength, and innovation.

To celebrate, we have a full calendar of events for our entire community in store for you. Join us for the most fun, exciting, and thought-provoking Israel programming of the year.

Let's mark this moment, together.

#### Thursday, January 25 at 7 PM Israel Story: Ancient Land, Modern Tales

A Live Multimedia Event  
Halton Theater, CPCC Central Campus

"Israel Story," the award-winning radio show and podcast, that public radio icon Ira Glass calls, "the Israeli 'This American Life,'" is coming to Charlotte for a special performance of its wildly popular live show – "Roomies: Stories of Living Together." This



show is part of the Jewish Federation's celebrations of Israel's 70th.

In a blend of storytelling, original live music, video art, and dance, the members of Israel's most popular podcast will share tales of Israelis from all over the country.

You will hear about the fifty-year-long friendship between Moshe Dayan's widow and Yasser Arafat's mother-in-law; about the

moment when sexy lingerie threatened to topple the Israeli government about a lone-soldier boarding with none other than Golda Meir; about Etgar Keret's subversive self-promotion tactics; about a narrowly missed opportunity to sign a regional peace agreement in the days after the Six Day War and more.

"Israelis, we all know, are a nation of storytellers. So in many ways our task was an easy one – to shine a spotlight on the little (and big!) dramas that comprise Israeli life. Our primary goal is to tell the story of a different, diverse Israel: To amplify voices that are rarely heard on the mainstream media, to showcase, and celebrate the plurality of local communities and traditions. By bringing you multi-faceted narratives on thought-provoking themes, "Israel Story" aims to become a refreshing alternative."

Since their debut, "Israel Story" has been featured in the



Times as well as *The Atlantic*, *Tablet Magazine*, the *Times of Israel* and *Haaretz*. "Roomies" has already wowed audiences across the US, including Manhattan, Chicago, Boston, New Orleans, Baltimore, and Palo Alto, among others.

Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased online at: [tix.cpcc.edu/](http://tix.cpcc.edu/).

#### Wednesday, February 7 at 7 PM

*Changing Tides, of the Middle East* featuring Bret Stephens  
See page 33.

#### Save the Date

Tuesday, February 27  
*Humans of Tel Aviv Photo Exhibit*

Inspired by the widely popular blog *Humans of New York*, Israeli photojournalist Erez Kaganovitz

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## Federation's Goal for the 2018 Annual Campaign is the Largest in History - \$4 Million

### Join Us, and Be the Start of Something Powerful!

The Main Event, which marks the beginning of the Jewish Federation's 2018 Campaign, was

held on Sunday, December 3, 2017.

A crowd of over 440 Greater



Main Event Co-Chair Jeff Turk, guest speaker Ambassador Dan Shapiro, Main Event Co-Chair Risa Miller.

Charlotte community members packed into Temple Israel's sanctuary.

Keynote Speaker Ambassador Dan Shapiro spoke at length about his experience as the U.S. Ambassador to Israel from May of 2011 until the end of the Obama Administration in January of 2017.

Shapiro's motivation for engagement with Israel is rooted in his first trip there. When he was four, his parents, who were academics, took his family to Israel for a six-month sabbatical. It was 1973, and his family stayed dur-

ing the Yom Kippur War. His memories and emotions led him to become a fluent Hebrew speaker and an American Jew who closely follows current events in Israel.

As Ambassador, he experienced many highs and lows as he was on the front lines of navigating the U.S.-Israel relationship. It was true that there was tension between President Obama and Prime Minister Netanyahu, he admitted, but he was also in office during times of incredible growth in the relations between the two countries. The third Memorandum of Understanding was signed – an agreement through which the U.S. has promised to provide \$38 billion in security assistance to Israel over the next ten years. This MOU represents the largest U.S. aid package ever. Shapiro was proud of the increased communication and collaboration between U.S.



and Israeli defense and intelligence communities. Both from the stage throughout his time in Charlotte, Dan Shapiro was spoke highly of this Jewish community and the leadership of our Federation.

The program started with Jason Pressberg, Federation's new Chief Development Officer, welcoming everyone. Main Event Co-Chairs Risa Miller and Jeff Turk told their personal stories of moving to Charlotte and becoming involved in Federation and many other Jewish organizations. Both spoke passionately about the growth of Jewish life here and the need for greater investment, commitment and involvement moving forward.

This year, Federation's goal for its Annual Campaign is the largest in history – an audacious goal of \$4 million. After Risa Miller announced the goal, Jeff

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