

# The Charlotte JEWISH news

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January 2020

## Time is Running Out to Get Your Tickets to Hear Best-Selling Author Mitch Albom Speak at the 2020 Main Event

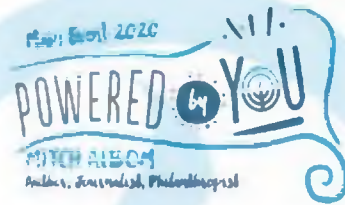
Tickets are selling briskly for The Main Event, the Federation's highest profile event of the season... the event that kicks off our community's 2020 Annual Campaign. On Sunday, January 26, please join us at Temple Israel, 7 PM, to hear best-selling author, Mitch Albom speak on "Have a Little Faith: How Trusting Others Can Change the World."

Mitch Albom is an internationally renowned and best-selling author, sportswriter, screenwriter, playwright, radio and television broadcaster, and musician. His books have collectively sold more than 39 million copies worldwide, have been published in 49

territories and in 45 languages around the world, and have been made into Emmy Award-winning and critically-acclaimed television movies.

While nationally recognized for his sports writing, Albom is perhaps best known for the themes of hope and kindness that weave through his books, plays, and films. In his talks and presentations, he brings the same inspiring message of community building, giving, and purpose. Expanding on themes already developed in his bestselling books *Tuesdays With Morrie* and *The Five People You Meet In Heaven*, Mitch Albom weaves a captivating and uplifting message about the potential in all of us for a giving, meaningful life.

Main Event tickets are \$36 each and are available online at [www.jewishcharlotte.org](http://www.jewishcharlotte.org), by phone at 704-944-6757, or at the



door on January 26.

Everyday, the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, together with you, our donors and partners, enriches lives, builds community, and fosters a thriving Jewish future locally, in Israel and around the world. We are always at work empowering the community and your Jewish experience in ways you might not think of, in places you would never expect. This is your moment to help. Join us at the Main Event, and be the start of something powerful. You will also have the opportunity to make your pledge to the 2020 Annual Campaign.

**The Main Event with Author Mitch Albom  
Sunday, January 26, 7 PM, Temple Israel.  
Tickets: \$36; [www.jewishcharlotte.org](http://www.jewishcharlotte.org);  
704-944-6757**

For more information about the Main Event, please contact the Federation office at 704-944-6757 or [info@jewishcharlotte.org](mailto:info@jewishcharlotte.org).

The mission of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte is to raise and distribute funds to support and enrich the lives of Jews

locally, nationally, in Israel, and worldwide. Through education, planning, and community building, the Federation's mission ensures that Jewish values, goals, traditions, and connections are preserved for current and future generations. ☆

**The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte supports programs and services that have real impact on Jewish life each and every day, in Charlotte, Israel and around the world.**  
Turn to **pages 8 & 9** to see how your dollars have powered our community!



## YidLive! By YidLife Crisis Opens the 2020 Charlotte Jewish Film Festival

*Eli Batalion and Jamie Elman of YidLife Crisis Bring Their Angst and Neuroses to Charlotte*

By Amy Krakovitz

Can you have a mid-life crisis when you are still in your 30s? Well, it happened to Eli Batalion and Jamie Elman, two Montreal

comedians who say theirs was a "crisis of Jewish identity."

"We grew up in a very Jewish neighborhood," says Eli. "We went to a high school that taught

us the Yiddish language. In the next 18 years after high school, we ended up doing nothing that had anything to do with that. So at a certain point, we decided we should reconcile our very Jewish upbringing with our very non-Jewish lifestyle and that beget this project."

"This project" is *YidLife Crisis*, a web series of short episodes almost entirely in Yiddish where characters Leizer (Batalion) and Chaimie (Elman) discuss food, tradition, rituals, philosophy, their place in the world, and Yiddishkeit, all with a caustic yet charming sense of humor.

But why Yiddish? Many people learned Spanish or French in high school, but they don't create web series in those languages.

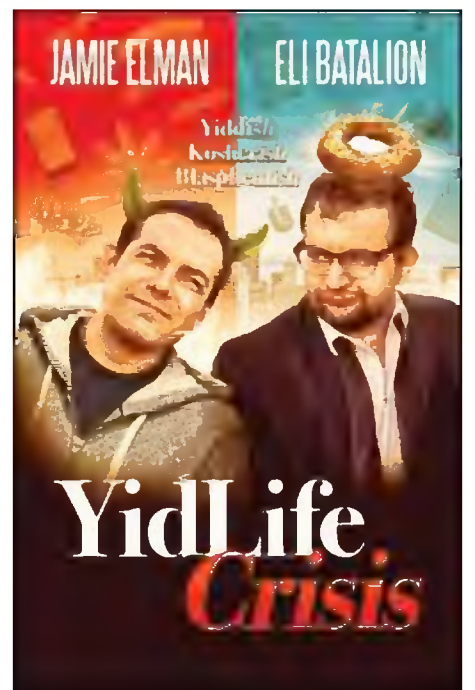
"Yiddish is a few things to us," explains Jamie. "It's symbolic of the upbringing that we had in Montreal which was filled with Yiddish and Yiddishkeit because Montreal is a bastion of Yiddish culture. There was and still is a Yiddish theater, a Yiddish public library, and we learned Yiddish at Bialik High School. So this is part of our upbringing.

"We also recognize that there's

a Jewish comedy tradition that is rooted in Yiddish language and Yiddish inflection and the musicality of Yiddish that found its way into American comedy in the last century. By the way," he adds, "when we tell this story on stage, it's a lot funnier."

**Appealing to an Intergenerational Audience**

"Part of the appeal of Yiddish," Jamie continues, "is the nostalgia. On the other hand, young audiences get a kick out of hearing two young-ish guys speak Yiddish. We see grandparents bring their grandkids to our shows and vice



versa. It's an intergenerational experience. And the sense of humor is certainly intergenerational.

(Continued on page 27)

**After what will be 22 years of editing The Charlotte Jewish News, our editor has elected to put down her red pen. We are seeking applicants for the position of editor. Please go to [jewishcharlotte.org](http://jewishcharlotte.org) for the job description and information on the application process.**

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