

Educational Inequity: How do we close the gaps?

TBE Bends Toward Justice: #Race&Justice Learning Series

January 16, 7:00 – 8:30 pm at Temple Beth El

In February 2018, CMS Superintendent Clayton Wilcox released the “Breaking the Link” report, which described significant gaps between student outcomes at the system’s affluent, predominantly white schools and those at its low-income, predominantly black and brown schools. The report also acknowledged inequalities in experienced and qualified teachers, staff stability, advanced classes, discipline, and extracurricular offerings.

Education and justice are central values of Judaism. How do we as individuals and as a congregation ensure that all children in our community receive the quality of education we want for our children?

Come and learn from an outstanding panel as we explore how we got here and what we need to do to close the gaps.



Dr. Pamela Grundy is the author of *Color & Character: West Charlotte High and the American Struggle over Educational Equality*. Described as “a microcosm of urban education across the nation,” it tells the story of desegregation and resegregation. She has also been active in local schools, and in 2011 was named a White House Champion of Change for her work to reintegrate Shamrock Gardens Elementary School. She holds a Ph.D in history from UNC Chapel Hill.

Justin Perry is Chair of the steering committee for OneMECK which focuses on increased equity and integration in education and housing. A Charlotte native, Perry graduated from West Charlotte and earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees from UNC Chapel Hill. He is currently a guest columnist for the Charlotte Observer. Perry is owner and therapist at Perry Counseling Healing and Recovery.



Kaycee Hailey is a current senior at West Charlotte High School. She is a violinist and has written opinion pieces about education for the Observer and EdNC, an online education newsletter. In October, she, along with two classmates, performed before 2,000 students at the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center as part of the Hamilton Education Program. They presented an original poem about Sally Hemmings’ life set to music.