

Camp Shabbaton

WHAT

At least one Shabbaton camping weekend during the coming year will be planned.

Please bring your own camping and cooking equipment for use at campsites.

WHO

Congregants who participate in and enjoy tent or RV camping

WHEN

Meet once a month (likely on Saturdays) to plan/organize Camp Shabbaton's itinerary

WHERE

Organizational meetings will take place at various locations. The Shabbaton will take place over a weekend at a campground decided upon by the TriBE.

ABOUT ME

Howard and Andrea Seidler, avid campers for about 30 years, would like to share their enthusiasm for camping with other Temple Beth El members. They invite other congregants to build community while becoming one with nature.

Charlotte and Beyond

WHAT

Learn together about our Jewish heritage while building friendships through local travel (museums and local venues in and beyond Charlotte)

WHO

Couples interested in developing long lasting friendships through their Judaism

WHEN

**Monthly
Sunday mornings**

WHERE

**TriBE members' homes,
starting with the leaders' home in
South Charlotte
(Matthews/Ballantyne)**

ABOUT US

Marsha and John Small have lived in Charlotte since 2003.

Janette and Jeffrey Schwartz have lived in Charlotte since 2016.

Marsha and Janette are both retired teachers. Jeffrey is a retired small business owner.

Both couples have children and grandchildren living outside of NC.

They would love to explore Jewish heritage through local travel and sightsee as they form a close community of friends.

Conservative Thinkers

WHAT

Discuss current events from a conservative viewpoint and build lasting friendships

WHO

Anyone who is politically conservative

WHEN

Tuesday or Wednesday evenings

WHERE

Homes within 10 miles of TBE

ABOUT US

Bob Kufert and his wife, Judy, have been members of TBE since 1992. Their 4 children became B'nei Mitzvah at TBE. Brooklyn-born, they lived in Miami for 13 years before moving to Charlotte for an IT position for Bob at Wachovia. Outsourcing by Wachovia led Bob to a variety of other jobs. Now back at Wells Fargo, Bob and Judy are looking forward to retirement in the next year.

Couples Celebrating Shabbat

WHAT

**Shabbat celebrations
Home based Friday night services
Friday night dinners out
Saturday morning walks
with brunch**

WHO

**Couples who want to creatively
celebrate Shabbat together**

WHEN

**Monthly
Friday night or Saturday morning**

WHERE

South Charlotte

ABOUT ME

**Ann Baumgarten and her husband, Eddie Traylor,
have lived in Charlotte for 2 years and have met great people.
They look forward to challenging themselves and others to enhance the
Shabbat experience in different ways.**

Creative Women

WHAT

To create a group of women who want to draw and paint together, and to explore and experiment with different art techniques

WHO

South Charlotte women interested in expressing their unique creativity

Beginners to professionals are welcome!

WHEN

**Sundays
10:00 am**

WHERE

Blakeney/Ballantyne area with an occasional visit to an art museum or gallery

ABOUT US

Eileen Schwartz is a Bubbie and working artist looking to develop temple friendships revolving around creating art. She believes that being creative enlivens the spirit and brings joyfulness into our lives.

Beth DiNicola moved from Seattle and has been a member of TBE for 7 years. She loves creating community among women and is a SoulCollage facilitator, artist, and life coach.

Culture and Arts - Stefan Pienkny and Eva Nove

WHAT

Having a great time in good company while attending cultural and arts events, engaging in discussions, sharing ideas, and dining before or after events

WHO

Anyone enjoying musical performances (symphony, chamber music, jazz), going to museums, art galleries and exhibits, attending lectures on different cultural topics

WHEN

Monthly or bi-weekly evenings and weekends (based upon events in town)

WHERE

TriBE members' homes

ABOUT US

Stefan Pienkny is an architect, currently teaching architecture in college, and still running a small architectural practice. Born in Poland and raised in Israel, Stefan served as a tank commander in the Six Day and Yom Kippur Wars. He loves music, arts, and good conversation.

Eva Nove is a counselor who worked with the military assisting soldiers with PTSD and traumatic injuries. She currently has a private practice, and is very active in cultural and arts events in Charlotte and throughout the region.

Culture and Arts - Michael and Meryl Baumgarten and Lauren Cantor

WHAT

Having a great time in good company while attending cultural and arts events, engaging in discussions, sharing ideas, and dining before or after events

WHO

Anyone who enjoys live performances (symphony, opera, theatre, jazz), going to museums, art galleries, and exhibits

WHEN

A new event every month chosen by the group

WHERE

Meet at the venue or the restaurant (depending upon whether the group dines before or after the event)

ABOUT US

Co-leader Mike Baumgarten is the Director of Production for Opera Carolina. Co-leader Meryl Baumgarten is a high school art teacher. The Baumgartens both enjoy all types of live performances and meandering around art museums. Co-leader Lauren Cantor lives in South Charlotte with her husband Shelly. The Cantors both enjoy going to museums, theatre, music, movies, and recently opera (since joining this TriBE!).

Culture and Arts - Steve and Elaine Primost

WHAT

Having a great time and meaningful experience in good company while attending cultural and arts events with dining or informal get-together

WHO

Anyone enjoying theatre, musical performances (symphony, chamber music, opera, jazz)), going to music festivals, and venues, classic films, and attending lectures on different cultural topics.

WHEN

Monthly events (in town or surrounding area) on evenings or weekends plus informal gatherings to discuss future outings, relax , and engage in lively conversation together

WHERE

TriBE members' homes or in the vicinity of Temple Beth El

ABOUT US

Steve Primost is a retired Security/Computer Geek and still tinkers in the field. Originally from NJ and the Northeast, Steve loves any kind of music and theatre productions. Elaine Primost is a retired NYC teacher and very doting “Granny” who is originally from New York. She loves theatre, art, and opera. Together, the Primosts share a passion for traveling and discovering new and interesting cultural events when they are not spending time with their grandchildren.

Documentaries and Discussions

WHAT

Viewing documentaries that inspire discussions while educating, expanding perspectives, and facilitating connections amongst ourselves and within the greater community

WHO

Anyone who is interested in exploring science, nature, technology, religion, food, health, sustainability, governments, the entertainment industry, history, etc., and sharing their insights and observations

WHEN

Monthly
Wednesday or Thursday evenings

WHERE

Home of Gary Starr
and Stephanie Bensinger

ABOUT ME

Stephanie and Gary love learning, laughing, traveling, exercising, eating ethnic foods, enjoying music, theatre, and meditation, volunteering in the community, and making connections with people from all walks of life. Stephanie has 4 grown children. She was a teacher for 31 years who now owns her own college consulting business. Gary has 3 grown children and has spent the last 28 years practicing orthodontics. They are excited about joining their families when they marry this spring.

Eating Around the World

WHAT

To learn about and experience foods from different countries

WHO

Anyone interested in exploring different international cuisines

WHEN

Monthly

WHERE

**South Charlotte
and at restaurants
chosen by the TriBE**

ABOUT US

Laurie and Harry Sparks enjoy trying different restaurants and types of food and would like to expand their knowledge of different cuisines.

Freedom Faith, The Uniqueness of Our Beliefs

WHAT

An open forum to share and delve into why we believe what we believe to provide opportunities of relationship growth and a richer understanding of different ways to view different faiths

WHO

Couples who share an interfaith marriage/partnership

WHEN

Monthly

WHERE

The Home of Pam Menaker

ABOUT US

Pam Menaker and Tim Martin are both in interfaith marriages. They want to share and support fellow TriBE members, hear and learn from their experiences, and explore and understand other TriBE members' connections to Judaism.

Genealogy

WHAT

**Researching Jewish
family history**

WHO

**Anyone interested
in tracing their roots**

WHEN

Weekends or Monday evenings

WHERE

Shalom Park/Uptown/Libraries

ABOUT ME

Jeffrey Lurie has spent over 5 years researching his family history, primarily from Eastern Europe. He would like to share experiences, see if he can help others with their research, and learn from others who may have some other genealogy research skills.

Geography and Wine - Joy Miller

WHAT

Taste testing domestic and international food and wine and sharing an appreciation of the geographical area and regions associated with the food and wine

WHO

Anyone interested in sampling and tasting wine and food from around the world

WHEN

Saturday evenings

WHERE

South Charlotte

ABOUT US

Joy and Fred Miller have lived in Charlotte for 26 years. Both enjoy learning and experiencing local and international food and wine.

Geography and Wine - Susan Abrams and Wendy Rose

WHAT

Taste testing domestic and international food and wine and sharing an appreciation of the geographical area and regions associated with the food and wine

WHO

For those interested in sampling and tasting wine and food from around the world

WHEN

Saturday or Sunday evenings

WHERE

South Charlotte

ABOUT US

Co-leaders Susan Abrams and Wendy Rose, together with their husbands, Bob Abrams and Sandy Rose, enjoy learning and experiencing local and international food and wine.

Geography and Wine - Dan and Debra Shane

WHAT

Exploring regional wines and the Jewish history of the regions in which the wines are produced

WHO

Anyone interested in exploring Jewish geography and its influence on tastes of wine

WHEN

**Once a month
on a date selected by the group**

WHERE

Meet at TriBE members' homes in South Charlotte, Matthews, and Weddington

ABOUT US

Dan and Debra Shane have lived in Europe, worked in Asia, and have traveled the world. They love tasting wine and exploring different cultures.

Indian Land

WHAT

**Fellowship
Community
Connections**

WHO

**Baby Boomers and Empty Nesters
living in the Indian Land, SC area**

WHEN

**Monthly
Sundays**

WHERE

**In homes
In the community
In nature**

ABOUT ME

After living in Charlotte for 25 years, Nora Wolf moved to Indian Land in 2014. The goals of the Indian Land TriBE are to form friendly associations with those who share interests in celebrating the traditions of Judaism, performing Tikkun Olam, and creating lasting connections.

Interfaith Couples

WHAT

Share insights, stories, and journeys on how interfaith couples have made decisions and continue to make decisions about the complexity and fullness of being interfaith

WHO

Couples who want to share what it is like being in an interfaith relationship and raising children as an interfaith couple

WHEN

**Monthly
Sunday evenings**

WHERE

**TriBE members' homes,
starting with the leader's home in
Charlotte (near Pineville)**

ABOUT ME

**Warren Sepkowitz is Jewish and his wife, Mary Lynn, is Episcopalian.
Their 3 children, all in their twenties, were raised as Jews.**

Being interfaith is who they are.

Jewish Mindfulness and Spirituality

WHAT

**Tame the madness of everyday life
with mindfulness techniques
infused with Jewish spirituality
and humor!**

WHO

Open to All Adults

WHEN

**Once a week to once a month
Evenings**

WHERE

**Charlotte
Matthews
Ballantyne**

ABOUT US

Kelly Ann Wilson, a long time TBE member, has been a member of an informal chavurah for the past 10 years. Supporting one another through life's simchas and tragedies has been meaningful. Kelly and co-leader, Shelley Friedman, would both like to extend similar opportunities of friendship and fun to others in the community.

JLearn

WHAT

To build connections with each other and to deepen our connection and understanding of the Jewish experience in history, we will read and discuss materials, socialize, attend the Jewish Film Festival and worship services, and participate in community service.

WHO

Anyone who wants to make connections and is curious to learn and discuss what we know about Judaism and the Jewish experience in history

You don't have to be an expert or an historian to join us!

WHEN

Every four to six weeks
Sunday afternoons or evenings

WHERE

TriBE members' homes,
starting with the leaders' home in
South Charlotte
(South Park)

ABOUT US

David Weinrib and Liz Wahls have lived in Charlotte since 1995. David's background includes majoring in History and taking some Jewish/Religious Studies courses. A regular participant in TBE Torah Study, he enjoys reading about history, religion, Israel, the Middle East, and future travel destinations. Liz enjoys reading fiction and participating in TBE Book Club. David and Liz enjoy attending the Charlotte Jewish Film Festival and are excited to form a TriBE that would like to broaden their Jewish horizons.

Jolt of Jazz

WHAT

**Jazz music, jazz musicians,
and their biographies**

WHO

**Anyone interested in jazz
and its Jewish heritage**

WHEN

**Monthly
Thursday, Friday,
or Saturday nights**

WHERE

**Live jazz venues in
and around Charlotte**

ABOUT US

Shelley and Larry Leibman moved from New York 17 years ago. They have 2 adult children and 4 grandchildren. They have enjoyed live jazz at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center in NY, in Charlotte, NC, in Hilton Head and Greenville, SC and look forward to connecting with other temple members who are jazz enthusiasts.

Men's Discussion Group

WHAT

Discussing current issues in politics and policy, Israel, and Judaism

WHO

Men who might be interested in sharing views on these topics

WHEN

Weekday evenings

WHERE

At TriBE members' homes and other some fun venues

ABOUT ME

Hal Levinson is interested in listening to some smart people make sense of some of the complicated issues we hear about daily.

Nosh, Schmooze, Explore, and Soar

WHAT

Making new friends, creating meaningful connections, learning and exploring Judaism, celebrating holidays and simchas, uplifting members in time of need, experiencing new things via food, travel, and social activities

WHO

Anyone seeking a core group of people with whom they can engage, learn, celebrate, and connect

WHEN

One to two times per month, preferably on weekends

WHERE

South Charlotte area and northern South Carolina, preferred

ABOUT US

Originally from NY, Linda and Ira Bass have lived in NC for 25 years, and are seeking to form a TriBE with whom they can engage, celebrate, and share similar interests. They run 2 businesses from their home, but always have time for their children and grandchildren who live here in Charlotte. TBE members for the past 12 years, the Basses like to travel and spend time with family and friends.

Outdoors

WHAT

To build and strengthen friendships while enjoying the outdoors in a non-competitive way

WHO

Anyone who enjoys outdoors, walking, hiking, and other activities

WHEN

Monthly

WHERE

Local Greenways, parks, state parks or other locations

ABOUT US

Donna Foster grew up in a small town with the woods at her back door. She began the Jewish Living Group - TBE Outdoors a few years ago to be able to enjoy hiking with TBE friends. Hiking is an invigorating and restorative activity for Donna, and making friends in the process adds to the enjoyment.

Mike Ferry enjoys hiking, and you will often find him paddling around, exploring various lakes from the seat of his kayak.

Donna and Mike hope you'll join them on their next adventure!

Singles Together

WHAT

To create a community of singles who gather monthly in members' homes, to munch and mingle, and plan social, religious, and cultural activities

WHO

For those who do not have a significant other

WHEN

4th Wednesday of each month and also plan to attend events at other times

WHERE

Monthly at members' homes and at cultural events in the greater Charlotte area

ABOUT ME

Emi Miller is a semi-retired Registered, Holistic Nurse and Acupuncturist, and has recently authored her first book on Interfaith Peace, In Wisdom's Light, A Message for Peace for All People. She has been a member of Temple Beth El for 5 years and enjoys nature, friends, cultural events, and spending time with her family, including her 2 gorgeous granddaughters.

The Happy Bookers

WHAT

Reading and discussing books and forming closer relationships

WHO

Anyone who likes to read and discuss a variety of books

WHEN

Monthly

WHERE

South Charlotte area

ABOUT ME

Natalie Tunney has been a Temple Beth El member for 12 years. She has served on committees, been a member of Sisterhood, and helped raise money for TBE's expansion. She recently moved to Raintree, and is excited to lead a TriBE and make new friends.

This is Us

WHAT

Writing

WHO

Anyone who is an experienced or not-so-experienced writer

WHEN

Monthly

WHERE

Charlotte/Arboretum area

ABOUT US

Claire Krusch and Sandra Friend wrote together on a weekly basis years ago and discovered lovely ways in which to express themselves through writing. Expressing thoughts and feelings about lives and their Jewishness is what they hope to share with others.

Triple C - Couples, Cooking, and Cards - Lee Bierer

WHAT

Fun, social evening enjoying new and favorite foods, playing some new and familiar card games, and enjoying great company

WHO

Couples looking for a low-key, fun, social evening

WHEN

**Monthly
Saturday evenings**

WHERE

TriBE members' homes

ABOUT ME

Lee Bierer loves hanging with friends and meeting new people. She loves eating, learning about new foods, and preparing food together. Her idea of a great evening is playing games and getting to know folks.

Triple C - Couples, Cooking, and Cards - Jane Diamond and Maddy Gallant

WHAT

Fun, social evening enjoying new and favorite foods, playing some new and familiar card games, and enjoying great company

WHO

Couples looking for a low-key, fun, social evening

WHEN

**Monthly -
either Saturday or Sunday**

WHERE

**TriBE members' homes
and restaurants**

ABOUT ME

Maddy Gallant and her husband, Barry, moved to Charlotte from NJ about 2 years ago, and they are looking forward to having fun with new friends.

Jane Diamond is originally from Charlotte, and together with her husband, Lee, is looking forward to meeting and making new friends.

Triple C - Couples, Cooking, and Cards - Sheryl Mirman and Jane Abel

WHAT

Fun, social evening enjoying new and favorite foods, playing some new and familiar card games, and enjoying great company

WHO

Couples with similar interests who enjoy games and food

WHEN

Flexible

WHERE

South Charlotte area, Ballantyne, Matthews, and Pineville

ABOUT ME

Sheryl Mirman is creative in many ways, She loves organizing parties, dinners, and games that invite people to have fun!

Jane Abel is the co-leader of Triple C. She enjoys bringing together people who have common interests. Jane is very inclusive of others and stresses the importance for personal connections made possible by small groups.

United - (USA to the UK)

WHAT

Looking at the differences and similarities within each congregation in order to connect in many ways

WHO

Anyone who would like to build a relationship with a UK synagogue

WHEN

Sunday mornings

WHERE

TriBE members' homes, starting with the leaders' home

ABOUT US

Cherie and John Flitton moved here from London in 1992 with their 2 children and maintain a wonderful connection with the rabbi and synagogue in the UK. Cherie has worked for the Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues in London as well as TBE. John is a precious metal hand engraver including Hebrew lettering.

The Flittons hope their TriBE can include international travel and sharing experiences with one another.

W3...Wise Worldly Women

WHAT

Be a modern Sarah! Welcome others into the community. Sarah created a home that was open to all, and the Shechinah was drawn to it. Let us attract that Divine Presence to all of our homes and create a warm, inviting, welcoming TriBE who learns, plays, and acts together.

WHO

Anyone interested in connecting with some amazing women who are active in Jewish and Charlotte civic life? This TriBE will be comprised of long time Charlotte residents as well as those newer to town.

WHEN

Second Wednesday of the month

WHERE

TriBE members' homes

ABOUT ME

Holly Levinson has lived in Charlotte over 30 years. Her husband, Hal, is a native Charlottean. TBE members for over 25 years, they have one son, Adam. Having personally experienced the warmth and welcome from the Charlotte Jewish community, Holly is excited to form a TriBE with some terrific, engaged, long time residents to similarly welcome Charlotte newcomers.

Write Now

WHAT

Writing together in a nurturing and supportive environment, guided by the Amherst Writers and Artists Method (AWA)

WHO

Anyone who is drawn to writing

All experience levels will feel comfortable all and are welcome

WHEN

First or Second Wednesday
of the month
2:00pm - 4:00pm

WHERE

In the Charlotte area

ABOUT ME

Ellen Reich is married and has 2 grown sons. She has lived in Charlotte and been a TBE member since 2000.

A published writer, Ellen has a Master of Fine Arts degree and has run Amherst Writers and Artists Workshops for 10 years after completing her training in 2008.