

Charlotte Teens Set Fantastic Swim Records in Maccabi Competition

What a thrill it was for three teenage girls from the Charlotte JCC's Swim Team to proudly carry the Charlotte banner in the parade of over 2,500 young Jewish athletes at the opening ceremonies for the North American Youth Maccabi Games. Harry Swimmer of Charlotte had encouraged Ruthie Abel, Amy Goldman and Alexis Lerner to compete at the games in Chicago with other Jewish athletes from the United States, Canada, Mexico and Israel. Harry joined in the gala opening procession representing Sports for Israel, one of the major sponsors and financial supporters for the Games.

The 18th of August began one of the most memorable weeks in competitive sports for these youngsters. You can imagine what it was like for these young swimmers as they marched into the cavernous natatorium of the University of Illinois in Chicago to the strains of an Israeli marching tune! The large crowd of spectators stood and cheered as over 400 of the finest young Jewish swimmers from around the world arrayed themselves around the pool.

These three unheralded young girls amassed a fantastic swim record for the Charlotte JCC. Could they have been any more proud of their achievements: 4 gold medals, 1 silver medal and 14 Certificates of Merit for finishing in the top 16 in their category. In addition, they set two Maccabi swim records in the 100 butterfly at 1.08.53 and the 50 freestyle at 28.77.

The tension of competition often gave way to the fun and excitement of making new friendships with other Jewish kids who had some of the same interests and aspirations.



(L to R) Alexis Lerner, Ruthie Abel, Amy Goldman.

There was a never ending round of exchanging addresses and swapping uniforms or T-shirts and pins among the participants.

At the closing ceremonies all the parents and relatives shared an unbelievable burst of pride not only in our girls' accomplishments but the fantastic success of the 2,500 Jewish kids who had competed so well in a week filled with so much fun and camaraderie, some pain and disappointment, but for all of the participants a week of wonderful new friendships and glorious memories.

If you would like to join us next year in Jerusalem — that's right, in Israel — see Stu Epstein at the JCC or talk to Amy, Ruthie or Alexis, but do join us for a very fulfilling Jewish experience.

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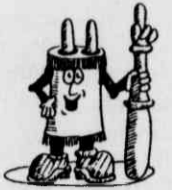
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Joel Lurie Grishaver

master teacher, author, cartoonist,
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Torah Aura Productions,
Jewish educational personality

on

Sunday, November 6



Morning — PARENT/CHILD FAMILY EDUCATION PROGRAM
Temple Israel 10 a.m.-Noon

Afternoon — STATEWIDE TEACHERS' WORKSHOP:
"TEACHING BIBLICAL TEXTS"
Shalom Park 12:30-4 p.m.

Evening — COMMUNITY LAY LEADERSHIP ADDRESS:
"RE-INVENTING THE JEWISH SCHOOL"
Temple BEVS 7-9:30 p.m.

Events are open to the community. For registration and further details, contact CAJE, 1727 Providence Road, Charlotte, NC 28207; (704) 366-1948.

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