



Havurat Tikvah



Havurat Tikvah Sings and Paints At Peace Wall

With songs of peace and paint brushes, children and adults from Havurat Tikvah expressed their hopes for peace and tolerance at the Wall of Peace at Temple Beth El on September 23.

The wall, erected in response to graffiti and vandalism at Temple



At the Wall of Peace outside Temple Beth El, Elaine Millen of Havurat Tikvah displays a "coexist" sign made of religious symbols.

Beth El and Temple Israel, took on new meaning after the terrorist attacks of September 11.

"It became even more important to show our support for the Charlotte Jewish community," said Elaine Millen, Havurat Tikvah director of community relations.

Laura Kaplan led a brief service during which she and Charles Kaplan, on guitar, led members through songs about peace and healing. Then, with paints and brushes provided by Temple Beth El, havurah members added their individual messages to the wall. ☆

Photos by Bobbie Pollard.

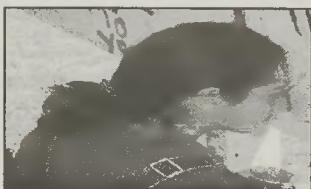
Talia Saxe of Havurat Tikvah adds her handprints and name to the many messages painted on the Wall of Peace by Charlotte's faith communities.



Jewish Reconstructionist Federation



Laura and Charles Kaplan lead Havurat Tikvah members in songs of peace at the Wall of Peace outside Temple Beth El.



Havurat Tikvah Calendar of Events

November

November 3 — Shabbat Services, 10 AM, Kaplan Home, 2900 Somerset Dr.

November 16-18 — Returning to One's Self: Finding Your Own Spiritual Direction. Shabbaton with Raachel Jurovics of Raleigh, NC, spiritual companionship practitioner and ALEPH rabbinic student. Visitors welcome. For times and locations, call 704-653-1390.

December

December 1 — Different Faiths, One Family. Adult Program on interfaith issues for couples and families with Daniel Biber, PhD. Havdallah and Desserts. 7:30 PM. Brenner Home, 329 Ridgewood Ave.

December 8 — Shabbat Services, 10 AM, Kaplan Home, 2900 Somerset Dr.

December 16 — Chanukah

Party and Candle Lighting on The Rock. Friedman Home, 2015 Westminster Lane, Matthews.

December 24 — Tzedakah Project at Men's Shelter.

December 25 — Shacharit Service and Bagel Brunch, 10 AM, Kaplan Home, 2900 Somerset Dr.

Havurat Tikvah is an affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation. Visitors are welcome to attend services and events. For more information, call 704-653-1390. ☆

Klezfest 2001 in St. Petersburg, Russia

By Gene and Ali Kavado

With klez camps held in various parts of the United States, why would two musicians from Charlotte, North Carolina choose to go half way around the world to attend KlezFest 2001 in Saint Petersburg, Russia? The answer is quite simple. If you are a Klezmer enthusiast, and you want to experience Klezmer music in a part of the world where the music has its roots, while immersing yourself in a cultural experience far removed from that of the average tourist, then KlezFest is for you.

My wife, Ali, and I spent a glorious two weeks in Saint Petersburg, the highlight being the five-day KlezFest seminar. Aside from a few faculty members, we were the only Americans in attendance, and it was wonderful. Seminar organizer, Alik Frenkel, and his charming wife, Leka, went out of their way to attend to our needs: providing transportation from the airport upon our arrival, a translator during our entire stay, arranging hotel accommodations for us after the seminar, changing dollars to rubles (with no fees), allowing use of a computer for email, answering numerous questions, providing transportation back to the airport at the conclusion of our stay and always with good humor. Alik's attitude was "we will solve all problems."

Ali and I are principal players with the Charlotte Symphony, viola and clarinet, respectively. We've had our own Klezmer ensemble since 1984. Having said that, I must say that we were thoroughly impressed with the quality of instruction and high level of musicianship at KlezFest.

Musicians from all parts of Russia and the former Soviet

Union were dancing, singing, and reveling in their music every day, all day, very often until 3:00 AM; then doing it again the next day. We were especially impressed with the young musicians, many of them teenagers, who performed Klezmer repertoire from memory and showed an obvious love for the music and style. A few of the musicians spoke some English, and their English was far better than our Russian; but no matter, we all spoke the same language when it came to the music. We learned a few Russian phrases (DOH-bra-uh OO-tra - good morning), and taught our friends some English as well (see ya later.) It was fun finding creative ways to communicate. We took all our meals together, and, yes, we became extended family.

Certainly the emotional highlight of the week was the final concert on the last night of the seminar. The venue was a spectacular concert hall on Nevsky Prospect, the main avenue in Saint Petersburg. I don't think any klez camp concerts have ever taken place in so glorious a setting. The concert lasted for three hours, but seemed to pass very quickly. The hall was filled to capacity, and just when we thought an emotional peak had been reached, the next performance brought the crowd to a higher emotional level, and they responded lovingly with rhythmic clapping. After the concert, we were treated to a late night dinner at a nearby restaurant, then the White Nights Cruise on the Neva River. More singing, dancing, vodka, revelry. We arrived back at our hotel around 6:00 AM. No, your average tourist will not experience Russia the way we did.

If a purpose of KlezFest is to

bring Russian Jews back to their Judaism through Klezmer music,

(Continued on page 18)



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— PRESENTATION —

DATE: Thursday, December 6, 2001
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
PLACE: Charlotte Jewish Community Center
5007 Providence Road
704-366-5007

Summer Resident Camp of the Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta
Accredited by the American Camping Association