

Two New Rabbis Arrive in Charlotte in July



Rabbi Jeremy Barras

Rabbi Jeremy Barras and his wife Jodi will be joining Temple Beth El this July. Rabbi Barras is a native of Wilkes-Barre, PA, where he learned early to love and value his participation in the Jewish community. His grandfather served as rabbi of a local Conservative synagogue, and Rabbi Barras attended Jewish Day School. After studying at Connecticut College, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations with a

Religious Studies Minor, Rabbi Barras began his studies at the Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR), one year in Jerusalem, and four years in Cincinnati, OH, where he was ordained as a Rabbi. Rabbi Barras also earned a Masters Degree in Administrative Education and Jewish Education at Xavier University in conjunction with HUC - JIR.

Rabbi Barras has extensive experience in Jewish education, teaching adults and children, youth activities, counseling, and diverse experience as a student rabbi in many settings, most recently as rabbinic intern at the Valley Temple in Cincinnati, Ohio. He is known for his creativity and warmth as a teacher and rabbi. Rabbi Barras' outside interests include a special love and talent for sports, particularly tennis, in which he excelled on the college and semi-professional level, and more recently, golf. He is

married to Jodi Gant Barras, and together, they look forward to quickly becoming an integral part of our congregation and community. We look forward to welcoming Rabbi Jeremy and Jodi Barras in July.

Rabbi Ari Sunshine has been engaged by Temple Israel to become its new Associate Rabbi. Rabbi Sunshine comes to Temple Israel as he completes his studies at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in New York.

Rabbi Sunshine grew up in Potomac, MD, where he attended the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School. After graduating high school, he attended Brandeis University where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree, magna cum laude, in Politics in 1994. After Rabbi Sunshine graduated, he served three years at Temple Israel in Sharon, MA as its Youth Director and Senior USY Advisor. In 1997 he decided to attend the



Rabbi Ari Sunshine

Jewish Theological Seminary in New York with a goal of becoming ordained as a Rabbi. While the Rabbi attended the Seminary, he also served as a Rabbinic Intern for Beth El Congregation in Baltimore, MD and for The American University in Washington, DC. Rabbi Sunshine has extensive experience working at Camp Ramah in Ojai, CA, 1999-2001. He staffed USY on

Wheels during the summer of 1995 and was a group leader for USY Pilgrimages to Israel and Eastern Europe. Rabbi Sunshine loves to sing and is a sports enthusiast (especially baseball and basketball). His wife, Jennifer, a speech pathologist and teacher, grew up in San Diego, CA. They met at a USY international convention and have been married for five years. They are very excited about moving to Charlotte.

Rabbi Sunshine will focus on several key areas of responsibility. He will assist Rabbi Ezring with his day-to-day responsibilities, including leading services, teaching adult education classes, assisting with life cycle events, and teaching in the Hebrew High School. Rabbi Sunshine will also be instrumental in creating and implementing family-oriented programming (social and educational) for our young families and in helping us increase the programming for the many families in the Lake Norman area who have recently been participating in Temple functions at the Lake. ☆

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Federation Reinstates Community Relations Committee

The Federation's Community Relations Committee (CRC) is being reorganized to focus on five specific areas, according to CRC Chair Jeff Epstein.

All Jewish organizations, institutions and congregations have been invited to appoint a representative to the CRC. Members of the Jewish community are welcome to participate.

The five working committees are: media relations; political relations; Israel Task Force; crisis management and church/state

concerns with area school districts.

Laura Lewin, Rael Gorelick, Marcie Kelso and Epstein have been discussing the creation of the CRC for the past year.

Each working committee will initiate its agenda.

For example, the political relations committee plans to have a small group luncheon weekly at Shalom Park with a specifically invited public official to discuss the community and to tour the many agencies at the Park.

Invitees will include school board members, and city, county, state and federal officials.

The media relations committee will focus on building relationships with area print and broadcast media.

The Israel Task Force will concentrate on program initiatives for



the Jewish and non-Jewish community, including plans for Israel's 55th anniversary celebration.

The crisis management task force will work with the rabbis and agency execs on Shalom Park to develop a coordinated response to crises affecting the community.

The public school task force will work the school administrator's to avoid holiday observance conflicts and to resolve church/state conflicts.

If you are interested in serving on the CRC and one of its committees, please email the Jewish Federation at mlieberman@shalomcharlotte.org. ☆

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Nominate a Jewish Woman in Charlotte for the Charlotte Jewish Women of Strength 2002 Award

The Charlotte Jewish Women of Strength began in 2001 as a way to acknowledge the variety of exemplary women within the Jewish community. These women were recognized because they embodied all that "strength" implies: physical, emotional, intellectual and/or spiritual.

The Project was originally conceived purely as a photographic exhibit but due to the enthusiastic response from the community as well as the involvement of the 2001 honorees the project has become a high profile component of the Jewish Community Cultural Arts Festival.

This project was developed by photographer Andrea Mellen and will be presented in conjunction with the Jewish Community Cultural Arts Festival.

In order to nominate a woman, please cite specific examples of the following:

- how has the nominee overcome obstacles in her life
- how has she shown a leadership or advocacy role in her community
- how has this woman been a pio-



neer in her work or made significant contributions in her profession

- how will this woman's life make a lasting impact
- how has this woman

influenced your life

- nominee must be a resident of Charlotte, NC

Nominations accepted until June 20, 2002.

Nomination Requirements

Nominations should address the above criteria, be no longer than two typewritten pages and should provide the name and contact information (address, phone and email) of the nominee and the person making the nomination.

Entries can be mailed to: Lee Bierer at Jewish Community Cultural Arts Festival, 5007 Providence Road, Charlotte, NC 28226 or left at the front desk at the Jewish Community Center. ☆

