

JEWISH FEDERATION NEWS

The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte raises and distributes funds to support and to enrich the lives of Jews locally, nationally, in Israel and worldwide. Through education, planning, and community building the Federation's mission ensures that Jewish values, goals, traditions, and connections are preserved for current and future generations

Sixth BLG Class Off to a Hysterical Start

On January 21, current and former Bernstein Leaders and a nationally acclaimed comedian walked into a bar...er, make that, Gorelick Hall...to celebrate the sixth Bernstein Leadership Group's first class session.

New York-based comedian Joel Chasnoff, who has opened for the likes of Jon Stewart and Gilbert Gottfried, had the room in stitches as he shared witty observations about marriage to an Israeli, summer camp names, and other aspects of daily Jewish life. Afterward, alumni



Comedian Joel Chasnoff flanked by BLG co-chairs Jen Algire (left) and Laura Cherny.

shared their BLG experiences and how the program has catapulted their community

involvements.

Jon Epstein, an alumnus in attendance, said he was happy to be spending time with other young leaders. "I think it was a great idea to include alumni in the event and look forward to hearing about other opportunities," he said.

(BLG alumni are currently mobilizing to plan future alumni events. For more information, please contact Jodi

Greenwald at 704-944-6759 or jodi.greenwald@jewishcharlotte.org.)

Prior to the show, new BLG class members met over dinner for a program orientation and to share stories about their own Jewish journeys.

"We had a blast on the opening night," says new BLG member Adina Loewensteiner. "Josh and I are both really excited about Bernstein. We think it's

going to be an amazing experience."

The Bernstein Leadership Group (BLG) is the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte's 18-month leadership program seeking to prepare the next generation of leaders (45 and under) to address the needs of our rapidly changing Jewish community. ☆

Shalom Baby Strolls into Kate's Skating Rink

Last month, the Federation's Shalom Baby program met for the first time at Kate's Skating Rink in Indian Trail for a morning of "Roller Stroller." Inspired by a similar program in Florida, Shalom Baby committee member Amy Strasser reserved the rink February 7 for new moms to rollerskate while pushing their children's strollers.

Some of the kids preferred to walk or try out skates themselves, but others were mesmerized (or was it lulled?) by being pushed by their moms.

"It was a creative idea and actually a good form of exercise. We had a great time!" said Strasser.

The next Shalom Baby will be a special Mother's Day event for moms only - dessert and a movie - on Wednesday evening, May 9, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in Lerner Center. There's also talk of holding another Roller Stroller, perhaps in the fall.

Shalom Baby is the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte's outreach program helping families with babies get



Tami Silverstein and Amy Strasser roll and stroll with Hazel, Isabel and Shayna.

connected to our Jewish community. For more information, contact Jodi Greenwald at 704-944-6759 or jodi.greenwald@jewishcharlotte.org. ☆

Jewish Federation Scholarships Available for Jewish Experiences

It is difficult to measure the value of a Jewish education in numbers or in charts. How do you quantify a child's smile when he shows his mother the clay menorah he made? How do you evaluate the pride a man feels when his granddaughter recites the "Shema"? How do you measure the warmth of Shabbat candles lit by your own teenager?

Yet, many studies have demonstrated the tremendous impact of a day school, Hebrew school, Jewish camp or trip to Israel on fostering Jewish identity. There is general consensus

that each activity, in its own way, brings Jews closer to our collective roots in both history and Torah. All these formal and informal educational activities share a common love and respect for our common ancestry, history, religion, and culture.

As a community, Jews share and embrace the value of Jewish education and recognize the many forms education may take. To that end, the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte supports a wide variety of educational opportunities, enabling individuals and families to dis-

cover for themselves how best to learn about our heritage and foster identity and affiliation with Jewish communal life.

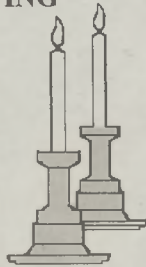
Most Jewish educational institutions in Charlotte receive funding from the Jewish Federation's Annual Campaign. sixty-nine percent of Federation allocations are dedicated to Jewish education and Jewish identity.

The Jewish Federation is proud to provide scholarships and special grants for all types of educational initiatives enabling parents to send their children to summer camps as well as to participate in Israel Experience programs. Nothing makes Jewish identity and history come alive for young people like an Israel Experience Program or a Jewish summer camp.

For scholarship applications or for more information, please call the Federation office at 704-944-6757 or info@jewishcharlotte.org. ☆

SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING FOR MARCH 2007

- Friday, March 2, 6:01 PM
- Friday, March 9, 6:07 PM
- Friday, March 16, 7:13 PM
- Friday, March 23, 7:19 PM
- Friday, March 30, 7:24 PM



The Charlotte Jewish News

5007 Providence Road, Suite 112
Charlotte, NC 28226

Office Hours

Hours: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Phone

(voice mail after office hours)

Office 704-944-6765

FAX 704-365-4507

email: amontoni@shalomcharlotte.org

An Affiliate of the
Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte
Amy Krakovitz Montoni - Editor

Advertising Coordinator/Sales Rep: Rita Mond, 704-366-6632

Advertising Sales Reps: Pam Grossman, 704-841-1544;

Jodi Valenstein, 704-841-4040

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