

Teens Visit from Hadera, Israel

The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte was thrilled to welcome our sixth summer delegation of teens from Hadera. Amit Yaakoby, Eliran Marshe, Galit Schmidt, and Hadar Alfasi, as well as their chaperone Shahak Segal arrived on Sunday, July 8 and joined us for two weeks, making connections with Charlotte campers, teens, and families. On behalf of the Levine Jewish Community Center, Roni and Glenn Fishkin opened their home to the teens and the com-

Wilds Emerald Water Park in Greensboro, rock climbing at the U.S. National White Water Center, paintball, camping, cooking the Israeli treat *shakshuka*, and more. Our Charlotte teens loved being able to share these experiences with our friends from Hadera, and the Hadera teens enjoyed being able to bring their Israeli culture and enthusiasm to their new American friends.

The teens had a wonderful time getting to know their host families and the city of

homes to the teens. Gabe Kaunitz, son of Hannah and Franklin Kaunitz, explains, "I ended up hanging out with Eliran nearly every day during the two weeks of his visit, and I forged a solid friendship with him and the other Israelis as well. It was certainly my pleasure to host Eliran." Eliran eagerly wrote to ask if he could come on another delegation. He wrote, "Our trip to your city was so fun ... that was the best trip ever. I will never forget you, my new American friends."

Additionally, the teens experienced the excitement of Verizon Amphitheater, where they saw Matisyahu, the popular Hasidic reggae/rock artist, open for 311 in concert. They spoke to the Charlotte Jewish community about life in Israel and their impressions of Charlotte. They had a great time at American Hebrew Academy in Greensboro with BBYO teens. Susan and Donald Jacobs brought everyone up to Lake Norman for a wonderful lunch and a relaxing swim. Nicki and Joel Ostrow welcomed the teens and the Charlotte community to their home for an ice cream and pool party. The two weeks flew by as everyone shared wonderful



Hannah Kaunitz, Gabe Kaunitz, Eliran Marshe, and Franklin Kaunitz

experiences and lots of laughs. Galit exclaims, "The experience we went through in Charlotte was unbelievable. Those were the two best weeks in my life. The people in Charlotte are so loving, caring, and soooo amazing ... I will definitely come visit North Carolina again before New York or any other state in the USA."

Our Charlotte Jewish community is thrilled to welcome our friends from Hadera because it is through these experiences that we create important and meaningful relationships between Charlotte and Hadera teens. Their presence here helps both communities to understand and appreciate the similarities and differences in Jewish culture and being a teenager.

Since the Hadera teens went back to Israel, they have been communicating with our

Charlotte teens through e-mail and by phone. Charlotte teens are already making plans for a trip to Hadera. The connections and friendships that were created between sister cities was fantastic and Charlotte cannot wait to host another delegation of Hadera teens next summer.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte proudly sponsors Partnership 2000 and the Summer Teen Program. Our teen exchange is just one way to get involved in our Charlotte-Hadera partnership. For more information, please call Sarah Kaplan, Community Relations and Israel Affairs Coordinator, at 704-944-6751. ☆



Amit Yaakoby, Shahak Segal, Galit Schmidt, Eliran Marshe, and Hadar Alfasi

munity for a wonderful welcome to Charlotte barbecue on Monday evening. Their days were spent participating in the LJCC's Ne'arim Teen Adventure Camp. Some of the highlights included white water rafting in Tennessee, Wet 'n

Charlotte. The Federation thanks our host families - Karen and Ira Busman, Roni and Glenn Fishkin, Hannah and Franklin Kaunitz, Lorrie and Barry Klemons, Nicki and Joel Ostrow and Lisa and Fred Shporer, who opened their

Forming a Web of Leadership

"When spider webs unite, they can tie up a lion."

This Ethiopian proverb resonated throughout the weekend of July 27-29 as the Bernstein Leadership Group met for a retreat at the American Hebrew Academy (AHA) in Greensboro. Through spending Shabbat together and hosting the Greensboro Young Leadership Group for dinner and a bonfire, Charlotte's emerging Jewish leaders learned about their interconnectedness and how their impact as leaders within and beyond our community can increase when they work together.

Eric Rowles, President of



The Bernstein leaders create a spider web of their own during closing reflections at their weekend retreat. Photo by Eric Rowles.

Leading to Change, facilitated group development exercises at the retreat. He called the sixth

Bernstein class, "An amazing group, with great energy and chemistry with each other."

Community Shlichah and BLG participant Tair Zach led the group in a Saturday morning text study. In a follow-up survey the Bernstein Leaders heralded Zach's session, which gave them the chance to examine leaders in the Torah, as one of their favorite workshops.

Upcoming BLG sessions will feature a rabbin panel, a discussion on the philosophies of lead-

ership, and a panel of Jewish agency representatives.

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. For more information, please contact Outreach Director Jodi Greenwald at jodi.greenwald@jewishcharlotte.org or 704-944-6759. ☆

JEWISH FEDERATION
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Save the Date

Jewish Federation Main Event -- February 10, 2008

The Main Event of the 2008 Annual Campaign will be held on Sunday, February 10, 2008 at 7:30 PM at Temple Israel. Event co-chairs, Stacey Schefflin Slomka and Ira Slomka are pleased to announce that this year's guest speaker is American-Israeli scholar and historian Michael Oren.

Michael Oren is a senior fellow at the Shalem Center's Adelson Institute for Strategic Studies. He is the author of the award-winning *Six Days of War: June 1967 and the Making of the Modern Middle East*, the critically acclaimed *Power, Faith, and Fantasy: America in the Middle East from 1776 to the Present*, as well as dozens of

scholarly and popular articles on the history and politics of the Middle East. His writing has appeared in publications such as the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *New Republic*, *Commentary*, and the *Wall Street Journal*.

After immigrating to Israel in 1979, Oren served as a paratrooper in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) eventually reaching the rank of major. He is a veteran of both Lebanon wars and was an Israeli liaison officer during the Gulf war. He also served as a representative of the Prime Minister's Office to the Jewish underground in the Soviet Union and as an advisor to the late Prime Minister

Yitzhak Rabin.

Oren is a graduate of Princeton and Columbia universities, has been a visiting professor at Harvard and Yale universities, and has received fellowships from the U.S. departments of State and Defense, and from the British and Canadian governments. A sought-after media analyst on security and Middle East affairs, Oren lectures around the world.

If you would like to read more about our guest speaker, please visit his website at www.michaeloren.com.

For more information about the 2008 Main Event please call the Federation office at 704-944-6757. ☆

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