

## Say Hello to the Staff of CJP

By Kelly Reed Keeling

**SPLASH!** If you look out the window at the Charlotte Jewish Preschool (CJP), you may see someone shooting down the big slide into the pool. But as the temperature heats up outside, the CJP staff is cooking up big plans for a fantastic new school year inside.

The CJP administrative staff works all year long to create a learning environment for our children. Let's take a moment to get to know them better.

Director Denise Abadi, a Texas native and member of Temple Israel, has worked in education since 1978 and is starting her 6th year with CJP. Denise also lived in Florida and, most recently, in Philadelphia. When asked what she and her husband will do when they become empty nesters next year, Denise replies, "Pay for two kids in college."

Denise's office currently is stacked to the rafters with children's toys and books, teaching tools, not to mention this fall's Oy Vey! coffee on sale by the PTO. She is brimming with ideas after the recent CAJE (The Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education) conference in St. Louis. Denise's summer is full with training and planning as she coordinates with CJP's 52 staff members, Board Chairperson Laura Newmark, PTO presidents, Haley Blanchard and Ruthann Effren, security staff, new parents, and the list goes on. Steamy summer days cover the fact that CJP has been a hive of activity.

Tootie Broome, Assistant Director, has commuted from Monroe to CJP for almost 16 years. She spent 14 years teaching two-year-olds before becoming Assistant Director. She oversees the full day program utilized by working parents and maintains health and sanitation standards. She says she gets teased a lot about her Southern accent, and that the thing she loves most about her new position is having contact with students of all ages.

If you meet Alyson Kalik, you would be surprised that she has such sedentary hobbies — knitting, crocheting and reading. Alyson, a Temple Beth-El member, is from Chicago, but spent 18 years in Los Angeles. At CJP, she spent five years in the classroom before becoming the school's administrative assistant five years ago. The directory, registration, student packets and the student "give aways" (a CJP lunchbox!) have kept Alyson busy this summer, but meeting the new families is her favorite thing about the job.

When you enter CJP, the first smiling face that greets you is likely that of Michelle Bamford, the school's receptionist. Michelle, a member of Temple Israel, is the mother of two CJP graduates, and her third child is currently in CJP's T-K program. Michelle says, "It's so easy and so heartfelt to say that eight years of driving from Cabarrus County to



Denise Abadi, director, Alyson Kalik, administrative assistant, and Tootie Broome, assistant director of CJP.

founded in 1989 and located on the grounds of Shalom Park, is a joint venture of Temple Beth El, Temple Israel, and the Levine Jewish Community Center. Under Denise's leadership the school's enrollment has grown over 60% in four years. More than 240 children will attend this year.

CJP offers a developmental approach to learning, a new building (only three years old), a 10,000 square foot playground, state-of-the-art security, low student-teacher ratios, age-appropriate programs in Judaica, music, and physical education, plus the convenience of transferring children to after school activities at the LJCC. Our administrative team brings classroom experience to every decision — just one more reason CJP is a great choice for the Jewish community's children. ☆

attend this school and to be part of this community have been worth it." Her enthusiasm for the school led her to serve on the board for the past five years and share her expertise in finance. She's entering her third year as the board's treasurer.

Charlotte Jewish Preschool,

in Judaica, music, and physical education, plus the convenience of transferring children to after school activities at the LJCC. Our administrative team brings classroom experience to every decision — just one more reason CJP is a great choice for the Jewish community's children. ☆



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**At CJDS, our kids run with the right crowd.  
And later, they're prepared to lead it.**



Please join us at our Open House, Thursday, October 25, 2007 at 7 pm. This is your chance to tour the school and learn about the opportunities that await your child.

**CHARLOTTE JEWISH DAY SCHOOL**

5007 Providence Road Building E Charlotte, NC 28226 [www.cjdschool.org](http://www.cjdschool.org)

Call 704-366-4558 to RSVP or with any questions.