

Newcomers

Welcome to the Raphaels

Andrew Raphael wonders, "Why do people move to South Florida when they can move here?" When he and his wife Christine were teenagers, their parents moved them to South Florida from their respective homes, Port Angeles, WA for Christine and Queens for Andrew. They met and married and established a life there. Andrew had a very well known and successful house painting business and Christine was involved in the equestrian community, where she was able to ride many quality Grand Prix dressage and jumper horses as well as have access to world-class trainers.

But when visiting some friends who had moved to Charlotte, the Raphaels were pleased to discover the affordable cost of living and the pleasant climate. "The people are a lot friendlier," Andrew says. "And Florida's seasons are either hot or really hot!" Although he misses the Florida beaches, the proximity to the mountains is an advantage.

"The land here is so beautiful,"



Andrew and Christine Raphael

Christine, 28, sighs. "I really can't wait to take our new horse Obie over the country side." She feels that with her experience in the Florida equestrian world, she can provide the local horse community with some valuable knowledge.

While it was difficult for Andrew, 35, to leave his family and friends, he looks forward to meeting new people and establishing new relationships here.

When asked what they would advise people wanting to move to Charlotte, Christine can only say, "It's perfect!" But Andrew is more hesitant. "I wouldn't tell anyone anything," he jokes. "I don't want to over-populate Charlotte!" ✪

Are you a newcomer to Charlotte?

Would you like to be featured in this new and growing section of *The Charlotte Jewish News*? We are looking for people who have been here less than a year who wouldn't mind answering a few questions and sitting for a photograph. Please call 704-944-6765 if you or someone you know would like to be our next Newcomer feature family.

Are you the owner or proprietor of a business that would be of interest to newcomers?

Let them know who and where you are by advertising in the Newcomer's Resources Guide.

NEWCOMERS Resources

Closest Hotel to Shalom Park

Hampton Inn & Suites

SouthPark at Phillips Place
704-319-5700 • www.hamptonsouthpark.com



SouthPark's most prestigious hotel. Surrounded by retail shopping, dining, and entertainment venues. Features 124 beautifully decorated guest rooms and suites. We offer special Bridal, Shopping, and Couple's Night Out Packages. Select rooms feature balconies, patios, mini refrigerators, microwaves, whirlpools, and garden bathtubs. Two room suites feature full refrigerators, microwaves, sofa, recliner, end tables, and select suites have a whirlpool spa and fireplace.

Hebrew Cemetery Association

By Lorrie Klemons, Publicity

On December 27 at 9:40 AM, the Temple Israel family received the long awaited joyful news of the birth of Rabbi Faith and David Cantor's new baby daughter. An email to its membership announced that "Rabbi Faith and David Cantor welcomed a baby girl into their family on Wednesday, December 26, 2007. She weighed 7 lbs. and was 19-1/4" long. Both mother and daughter are fine."

A mere five hours later, that joy and happiness turned to heart-breaking grief and disbelief as Rabbi Murray Ezring forwarded the following email to his congregational family:

"In the words of Ecclesiastes: "A time is set for everything, A time for everything under the heaven:

A time for dancing and a time for weeping;

A time for birthing and a time for dying;

A time for seeking and a time for losing."

"The first book of Samuel reminds us that: "There is but one step between me and death."

"This morning, we notified the congregation of our time of great joy as Rabbi Faith and David Cantor welcomed a beautiful, healthy daughter into this world. Unfortunately, the Cantor family has also been forced to face a time of pain and tragedy as they learned of the untimely death of Rabbi Cantor's mother in a fatal automobile accident on her way here to Charlotte. Today, our heartfelt condolences go out to the Cantors as we pray that God will grant

them comfort and solace during this difficult time."

I have been writing articles for the Hebrew Cemetery Association for almost four years now. I have written about death, the process of dying, mourning, bereavement, 9/11, the Virginia Tech tragedy, and the fragility of life in general. In the face of today's tragedy, there are no words of comfort that can ease Rabbi Cantor's broken heart. God willing, with the passage of time, her faith and her community's support will help her heal.

Ironically, as I write this article on the very day of all of our sadness here in Charlotte (December 27, 2007), we join the rest of the world in the mourning for Pakistan's Benazir Bhutto who was assassinated today as she risked her life politicizing to bring about peaceful order and democracy to the Middle East.

Life is short. And it is fragile and unpredictable. Each one of us should use these tragic events as a wake up call to stop and smell the roses. If there is someone you haven't hugged in a long time...find the time to hug them. If there is someone you owe an "I love you" to ...tell them that you

love them. If there is a friend whose feelings you hurt, apologize. If there's a mitzvah you keep putting off, do it today. If there's a charity you've been meaning to contribute to, sit down and write that check. If there's a trip you've been dreaming of, make your reservation. If there's a book you just haven't had time to read...start reading it. If

you sense that the American way of life is not what it used to be and that there has to be a better way, go see the movies "Kite Runner" and "Charlie Wilson's War" to appreciate how good we have it here in the USA.

Do something good with your life. Let your actions of every day living scream out to all who witness your life that you are a mensch: a decent person who cares about others, who cares about the world. Because in the end, it's your good name that will become your legacy.

For more information about membership benefits, graves, pre-paid funeral costs, or endowment donations, call Cemetery Director Joe Kods at 704-364-4112 or 704-576-1859. Visit the website of the Hebrew Cemetery Association of Charlotte at www.hebrewcemetery.org. ✪



Hebrew Cemetery Association

Annual Jewish Coffeehouse

Saturday, March 8 at 7:30 PM at Izzy's Cafe & Catering 5668-A International Dr.

There will be Jewish cuisine, dancing, games, schmoozing, and kibitzing. The entire Jewish community is invited for a great fun filled time of fellowship.

Chavurah without walls meets

the first Saturday of each month for and Torah study without walls meets the third Saturday of the month. We have many other impromptu small group get togethers.

For more information call 704-236-6080. ✪

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