

Temple Emanuel Sisterhood Leads the Way with Chanukah Activities

The Sisterhood at Temple Emanuel is a vital part of Temple life. President, Talia Wucherer, has done a wonderful job planning events that incorporate entire families as well as the women of the congregation. The yard sale held at the Gastonia Gazette on October 13 was a big success. On Friday, December 7, a silent auction/spaghetti dinner/Chanukah party was held in the Social Hall at the Temple. Our great chef, Mitch Miller did the spaghetti honors. Some wonderful baskets were donated by Temple families. They consisted of everything from a vacation weekend getaway, bath spa, Doggie Yoga and Webkinz with everything and anything in between. There were also drawings for white elephant items. Services were held after dinner. On Sunday, December 2, a luncheon and challah baking was held at Nikki Olliff's house. Everyone had a challah to take home, and those who had never made one of their own learned exactly what to do both by hand and, thanks to Talia, using a bread machine. Everyone had a great time. A



Mixing the dough at the Challah Baking Luncheon.

Sisterhood Shabbaton was held later in December, allowing all the husbands to take the night off and relax with the kids. The Sisterhood also donated money to the Empty Stocking fund sponsored by the Salvation Army and organized an "Undies Sunday" with donations of children's underwear and socks going to Gastonia's Downtown Faith Network.

Sunday School also had a great Chanukah party on December 9. Not only did the students celebrate with yummy treats and fun activities, but Sunday School President, Jason Gluck planned a mitzvah

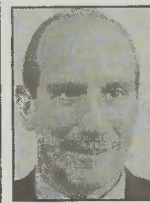
room where the children gathered items and organized donations for several different charities. They also collected small toys to be given away by soldiers in Iraq as well as items for Jewish Family Services.

Adult studies are continuing with Mussar classes on Wednesday nights at 7:30 PM at the Temple. Sunday Schmooze will also be going on while the children are in Sunday School.

Temple Emanuel is a reform Jewish community located at 320 South Street in Gastonia, NC. We serve the communities of Gaston,

Lincoln, Cleveland, York and Mecklenburg Counties. Our mailing address is P.O. Box 550085, Gastonia, NC, 28055-0085. We can be reached by phone at 704-

865-1541. Services are 10 AM on the first Saturday of each month and at 7:30 PM on each Friday night thereafter. Any and all guests and newcomers are welcome. ☆



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Mazel Tov & Congratulations

Government of Israel and Palestine Red Crescent Society Sign Agreement to Increase Emergency Medical Services

Washington - Last month in Geneva, negotiations facilitated by the American Red Cross between the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) and the Government of Israel led to the signing of a historic agreement allowing five PRCS ambulances to operate in East Jerusalem.

The agreement stems from the November 2005 Memorandum of Understanding between PRCS and Magen David Adom (MDA), the Red Cross equivalent in Israel, which calls on both National Societies to advocate for improved humanitarian safety and access.

"The cooperation between Magen David Adom and the Palestine Red Crescent across conflict lines means that today, lives are being saved as Palestinian ambulances bring critically injured patients to hospitals in East Jerusalem and elsewhere in Israel for emergency treatment," says American Red Cross Chairman Bonnie McElveen-Hunter. "Representing the best humanitarian principles and practices of the international Red Cross and Red Crescent family, we are grateful to the Government of Israel for its efforts to reach agreement on this life-saving work. It is our great hope that this cooperation will serve as an inspiration not just for dialogue but for tangible results that some day will lead to lasting peace."

The current security situation in Israel and the Palestinian territories often limits access with checkpoints, restrictions and road-blocks. The agreement increases cooperation between the two soci-



Elaine Lyerly, left, with her sister and business partner, Melia Lyerly.

eties to allow for quick access of emergency medical services to those in critical need. After this agreement was signed, it took only 90 minutes for this important ambulance service to operate, according to MDA and PRCS leaders, delivering one of the first three cases to Hadassah Hospital.

The American Red Cross was a strong supporter of the joint admission of MDA and PRCS into the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in June 2006, and has since played a key

role in promoting effective cooperation between the organizations.

American Red Cross Board of Governor Elaine M. Lyerly, CEO and President, Lyerly Agency, Inc., of Gaston County, NC, played a key role in supporting the inclusion of Magen David Adom, the Israeli Red Cross and the Palestine Red Crescent Movement to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. "The effective cooperation between MDA and PRCS serves as an example of humanitarian principles transcending politics," said Lyerly. "We are honored to support the important work of these two societies, whose focus on humanitarian needs rises far above the politics of this complicated conflict."

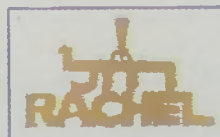
The American Red Cross helps people prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies. Last year, almost a million volunteers and 35,000 employees helped victims of almost 75,000 disasters; taught lifesaving skills to millions; and helped U.S. service members separated from their families stay connected. Almost four million people gave blood through the Red Cross, the largest supplier of blood and blood products in the United States. The American Red Cross is part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. An average of 91 cents of every dollar the Red Cross spends is invested in humanitarian services and programs. The Red Cross is not a government agency; it relies on donations of time, money, and blood to do its work. ☆



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