Hebrew Cemetery Association

By Lorrie Klemons, Publicity

In a beautiful Talmudic teaching, the rabbis were curious as to what question God would first ask a person brought to judgment in the world-to-come. They determined that the question would be "What was your occupation?"
While one might think that God would first ask "Did you believe in

God?" or "Did you observe all the rituals?," that is not the case. The Talmudic passage points out that it is a person's decency that is at the very core of Judaism.

When people are brought into judgment in the word-to-come, they are asked: "What was your

If the person answers, "I used to

feed the hungry," they will say to him, "This is God's gate, you who fed the hungry may enter.

If the person answers, "I used to give water to those who were thirsty," they will say to him, "This is God's gate, you who gave water to those who were thirsty may

If the person answers, "I used to

clothe the naked," they will say to him, "This is God's Gate, you who clothed the naked may enter.'

and similarly with those of you who raised orphans, and who performed the mitzvah of tzedakah, and who performed acts of caring and loving kindness.

The Ethics of the Fathers speaks of three famous central principles to a Jewish life: Torah, or learning; service of God; and the performance of good deeds (Pirke Avot 1:2). The third basic teaching of Judaism, acts Association of loving kindness, is a virtue that includes every

kind of help: visiting the sick (bikkur holim), comforting the mourner, and escorting the dead to the grave (shomerim). Since it consists of acts of personal kindness, it is a universal mitzvah in Judaism and can be practiced by rich and poor alike

In Genesis 47:29, Jacob asks his son Joseph to deal kindly and truly with him after death. The Midrash Tanhuma points out that kindness shown to the dead is indeed an act of the truest love, since there is no prospect of repayment or gratitude. While a poor person may one day be in a position to repay his benefactor, a dead person cannot ever repay the kindness.

Comforting mourners is another

example of a personal act of loving kindness that every Jew should perform. In Talmudic times it was customary to take gifts of food and especially wine to mourners to bring a little cheer into their lives. Attending a funeral to pay last respects to the deceased and accompanying them to their final

resting place are also acts of great benevolence and loving kindness.

By joining your Hebrew Cemetery Association today, you display to the rest of the Jewish community that you embrace the holy level of loving kind-

ness that makes God smile and elevates you to another whole level of spirituality and being. Even though Valentines' Day is not a Jewish holiday, a gift of membership in the cemetery association would be a great way to tell your family that you love them.

For more information about membership benefits, graves, prepaid funeral costs, or endowment donations, call Cemetery Director Joe Kodsi at 704-576-1859.

Directions to the cemetery: Take Providence Road into uptown; turn right on Graham Street and stay on Graham for about two miles; bear left onto Statesville Avenue; the cemetery will be about ¼ mile down the road on your left. ❖

Treesday March 18th will be available



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JCBC March Meeting Features Dan Feldstein, Co-**Founder of Red Ventures**

Hebrew

Cemetery

The JCBC was organized in 2004 as a way to bring Jewish business and professional leaders together for advice and mutual support. The group meets on the third Tuesday of each month with a guest speaker discussing a topic of interest to our business community. Meetings are held at 6:30 PM in Luski Hall, which is room 207 of the Bernstein Building in Shalom Park.

On March 18, Dan Feldstein, co-founder of Red Ventures, will relate his journey to success in a presentation to the Jewish Community Business Circle. His company earned the title of "The Fourth Fastest Growing Private Company" on the prestigious Inc. Magazine's Inc.Fast 500 List by growing at a remarkable rate of 9,570% over four years. They employ over 400 staff in four diverse locations.

Red Ventures is headquartered in Charlotte's Ballantyne area and operates seven business units, including the largest and fastest-growing DIRECTV dealer, a leading reseller of ADT home security services and a direct-to-consumer marketing partner of Sirius Satellite Radio. Dan will share his perspective on the challenges and the implications of being a growth company and share secrets on finding, retaining, and growing a talent base of great employees. Business owners, sales folks, avid networkers, and job seekers will gain insight from Dan's real-world experiences

Meeting Schedule:
6:30-7 PM: snacks and networking

7-7:30 PM: roundtable introductions of members and guests

7:30-8 PM: guest speaker and questions and answers

Attendance is free, but we do ask for a \$2 contribution to cover the costs of snacks and drinks.

For more information, contact co-presidents Justin Lowenberger at 704-534-1105 or email justinlowenberger@mydrted.com Don Rosenberg at 704-364-1784 or donrosenberg@gmail.com. \$\phi\$

JCC Tributes

Musler Memorial Fund for Children's Programs

Wishing Lee Kritzer a Happy Birthday from Paula Musler and Sol Levine

In memory of Robert Green from Paula Musler and Sol Levine Swimmer Family LJCC Maccabi Endowment Fund

In honor of Linda Goldsmith's special birthday from your line dancing friends and family

In honor of Noah Kipnis's Bar

Mitzvah from Marilyn and Harry Swimmer

Mindy Ellen Levine Day Camp Fund

In memory of Jill Estroff Young from Amy and Matt Choffin Oasis Senior Hot Lunch Fund

In memory of Blanche Hirschmann from Sara Wachspress LJCC Program Endowment Fund

In memory of Harry Monblatt from Felicia and Arnold Laubich &