

WOMEN'S NEWS

In Celebration of Freedom

By Heidi Rotberg, President,
Charlotte Chapter of Hadassah

Freedom: Webster's dictionary defines freedom as: the state of being at liberty rather than in confinement or under physical restraint; the power of determining one's own actions; the power to make one's own choices or decisions without constraint.

This is the season of freedom and renewal. The gifts are before us. With the advent of spring, the blossoms burst forth and warm breezes fill the air. The potential for a new and better tomorrow awakens the world. As Passover approaches, we realize how many of our holidays are connected to the struggle for freedom from slavery. These celebrations serve to recall our historical past and

help us consider and reflect upon the extraordinary freedoms we enjoy today.

"Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt." It is part of our liturgy and infuses much of our rite and ritual. It connects us to our history, unites us with our present and links us to the future. With global events unfolding at an increased momentum, Passover offers us a unique opportunity to re-examine our lives. We acknowledge that nothing should ever be taken for granted, especially our freedom. How fortunate we are in this country to enjoy this precious right. We remember that independence of every kind is hard won and can easily be lost. We are reminded that it deserves our attention.

This season of Passover underscores our responsibility to preserve these liberties we cherish. We have both an individual and communal obligation to take action and get involved.

* Freedom is found when you have the right to speak out.

* Freedom is found when you accept the charge to make your opinion heard.

* Freedom is found when you are able to advocate for something you believe is right.

* Freedom is found when you live in a society that permits you free movement.

* Freedom is found in your own self-determination and free-will.

* Freedom is found at your Passover Seder when you celebrate with joy and without fear.

Freedom is found in your voice. Make your voice heard. ☆

Hadassah Lake Norman Chapter Events

Hadassah Lake Norman Chapter scheduled the following events for April 2008. For more information or RSVP please contact Robbie Damesek by email at robbedamesek@yahoo.com.

Book Club

The Hadassah Lake Norman Chapter Book Club will meet on April 2, 7 PM to discuss "Inside Outside" by Herman Wouk. This is free.

General Meeting

The Hadassah Lake Norman Chapter general meeting is on April 14, 7 PM.

Annual Spring Fund Raiser

Mark your calendar May 4, 11 AM for the Hadassah Lake Norman Chapter annual spring fund raiser and silent auction. ☆

Coming Attractions for "Chapters," the Temple Beth El Book Group

On Sunday April 6, we will discuss our April selection, *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak, at 3 PM in the Chapel at Temple Beth El.

Narrated by Death, this book recommended by our own book club members, Kathy Rosenfeld, Ivy Saul, and Lynne Cojacob, is, like our January selection [*History of Love* by Nicole Krauss,] about the interplay between two very unlikely characters.

The story takes place in a small town outside Munich from 1939-1945. Categorized as Juvenile Fiction, it is nevertheless visually rich, compelling, and memorable with well developed characters.

"Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel—a

young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors," says the Charlotte Mecklenburg Public Library.

We hope you'll join us that afternoon as Sisterhood President, Ivy Saul, leads us in discussion. Comments or questions? Contact Lynne Cojacob 704-541-3358 or LCojacob@aol.com

Also, please note Temple Beth El Sisterhood's Attic Sale from April 13-15. Come volunteer, donate unused items, or shop...Please spread the word! Unused items for donation can be dropped off now. Good incentive for early Spring cleaning. ☆



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The 2008 Hadassah Directory of the Charlotte Area Jewish Community is now available.

Directories will be available for purchase for \$20 at the following locations: Phil's Deli, Temple Beth El and Temple Israel gift shops and the JCC reception desk.

The 61st edition of the Directory contains listings of our Greater Charlotte Jewish residents. Along with the continuing and grateful support of our Patrons and local advertisers, the profits from the Hadassah Directory go to medical research. This year the Directory has grown tremendously with new names and places to patronize.

Any questions: please contact Judy Kaufmann at 704-847-1022.

This quarter's Wall of Fame features famous Jewish comedians. Come see them all at the Levine JCC.

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