

# Bridging the Generations with Big Bubbies/Big Zaydes

Because of the transient nature of Charlotte and the Jewish community of the 21st century in general, many families are separated by great distances. This has left young Jewish families and singles without the local multigenerational support structure that was so readily available in past generations. With so many activities vying for the attention of today's young Jews and the increasing rates of interfaith marriages and assimilation in general, it is becoming more challenging to ensure future generations share a strong sense of Jewish identity. It

has also left many "Empty Nesters" and seniors without the strong ties to the Jewish community they had while raising their families.

The idea arose to bridge this gap by connecting the two groups. Bernstein Leadership Group Class VI and Jewish Family Services are joining forces to launch a small pilot program by fall called Big Bubbies/Big Zaydes. The purpose of Big Bubbies/Big Zaydes is to foster Jewish continuity and community by connecting young families in the Charlotte community with those who are more estab-

lished.

The goals of the group are:

1. Provide young Jewish families with a source of guidance, Jewish history and family traditions. 2. Provide Jewish "Empty Nesters" and seniors with a connection into the younger Jewish community in Charlotte and the opportunity to feel needed, especially around Shabbat and other Jewish holidays.

Singles of all ages moving to Charlotte are also encouraged to participate. Oftentimes, it takes being 'adopted' by someone more established to ease the way into

becoming an active member of the Jewish community.

There are already ten young families lined up to participate in the program. We are now shifting attention to identifying some potential "bigs" who can ensure the pilot is a success and leads to the roll-out of a large program. There's no rigid schedule, no fixed number of hours, just a willingness to listen and share. There's such richness we can bring to each other. If you, or

someone you know, would be interested in finding out more information, have some ideas about the program or may consider becoming a Big Bubbie/Big Zayde, please contact Stephanie Bernstein at Jewish Family Services at 704-768-6644 or either of the Co-Chairs of the Bernstein Leadership Group Big Bubbies/Big Zaydes Program: David Levin at 704-708-4655 or Karen Spiegler 704-541-5677. ☆

# Donations to Jewish Family Services in April 2008

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Dorothy and Stuart Blumner from Ruth and Julius Silverman

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The marriage of your son to Alyce Levin from Jill and Ed Newman

The birth of James Wheeler, grandson of Ginger and Jim Kelly, from Steve and Sandy Hoagland

Adrienne Krovovet's Bat Mitzvah, from JFS

## IN HONOR OF

Bea Gibbs from Renate and

Stefan Berger

Lynn Sheffer for all of her wonderful community service from Shel and Ellen Goldstein

JCC Gefilte Fish fund from JFS

## IN MEMORY OF

Blanche Hirschmann, beloved wife of Henry Hirschmann, from Lawrence and Sheila Margolis and family, Esther and Fred Glickman

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Bernie Schuster, beloved husband of Penny Wagner-Schuster, from the Staff and Board Members of JFS

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Lillian Cantor, beloved grandmother of David Cantor, from Audrey Madans

Lou Goldsticker, beloved father of Jodi Cohen, from Audrey Madans

Norton Birnbach, beloved father of Sandy Hoagland, from Audrey Madans, Lillian and Irving Bienstock

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# Youth Visions



Members of BBYO show their love for Israel.

On May 4, 1500 people in Charlotte participated in "Walk the Land" - 100 cities across the globe created a unified network for the first time ever to walk in celebration of Israel's 60th Anniversary.