

## Lake Norman Jewish Congregation Rabbi on Staff of Davidson College

When Rabbi Michael Shields moved to Davidson this year to become the spiritual leader of the Lake Norman Jewish Congregation, he also accepted another position. It's a job most people don't even know exists. Rabbi Shields is the Adjunct Jewish Chaplain at Davidson College.

Why a Jewish chaplain position at a Presbyterian church-related college? Davidson College Chaplain Rev. Robert Spach says it makes perfect sense.

"Davidson seeks to embody an ethos rooted in a Christian tradition that is open to and respectful of all religious traditions," says Rev. Spach. "As the diversity of the student body has grown in the past 15 years, we've sought to ensure that students of every faith can find nurture and support in their particular tradition."

Spach says Davidson College added adjunct Jewish and Catholic chaplains several years ago to meet the needs of students from those traditions. The positions also give students of all faiths a chance to interact with professionals from those traditions.

"Davidson has been such a welcoming and warm place," says Rabbi Shields. "Sixty Jewish students feel at home at Davidson College, and the addition of my position allows the College to continue growing its pluralistic tradition."

Rev. Spach says students are excited to see Rabbi Shields on campus on a regular basis. They've met at a welcome back to school bagel brunch and several Davidson college students received a warm welcome and a special blessing at Lake Norman Jewish Congregation's High Holiday services. Three Davidson students are teaching in the LNJC religious school, held on the campus Sunday mornings.

"The intersection of the LNJC religious school and Davidson College enriches both communities," says Rabbi Shields. "Davidson College Hillel students have an opportunity to be role-models and teachers. The LNJC children benefit from the energy of the Jewish Davidson College students."

Rev. Spach says the relationship comes back to enriching the Davidson College student experience. "A primary concern of the Chaplains' Office is that students, faculty and staff of all faiths find opportunities to learn about, practice and express their beliefs and traditions on campus."

Davidson College is a highly selective independent liberal arts college for 1,700 students located 20 minutes north of Charlotte in Davidson, NC. Since its establishment in 1837 by Presbyterians, the college has graduated 23 Rhodes Scholars and is consistently regarded as one of the top liberal

arts colleges in the country.

The Lake Norman Jewish Congregation welcomes those interested in learning, worship and fellowship in an inclusive Jewish environment. Our goal is to promote a sense of belonging and acceptance within the congregation as well as the community at large by creating a place for spiritual growth while fostering Jewish tradition, education and culture.

Lake Norman Jewish Congregation, PO Box 5199, Mooresville, NC 28117-6831, www.lakenormanjc.org, 704-987-9980. ☆



## Lake Norman Jewish Congregation Screens

### "Paper Clips"

#### Second Annual Holocaust Awareness Event November 9

One paper clip at a time. That's how a small Tennessee school project sparked lessons in tolerance that continue to inspire. This remarkable story can be seen in the award-winning documentary film, *Paper Clips*.

Lake Norman Jewish Congregation will screen this uplifting and inspirational movie during the second annual Holocaust Awareness Event Sunday, November 9, 5-9 PM at the Charles Mack Citizen Center in Mooresville.

*Paper Clips* is the story of a school project in Whitwell, TN. Student gathered enough clips to account for everyone murdered by the Nazis. By the end of the project, they had 11 million paper clips, symbolizing the 6 million Jews and 5 million others exterminated in the Holocaust. The project touched people around the nation and the world.

There was not one Jewish student in this school. School leaders hoped the project might help teach the students about diversity. What ultimately happened changed the lives of the students, their teachers, their families and the entire town forever, and by the end, they

had a new goal: to open the eyes and hearts of people around the world.

Join the Lake Norman Jewish Congregation, Rabbi Michael Shields, Davidson College Chaplain Rev. Robert Spach and special guests for an inspiring evening.

\$36 for adults/\$18 for students includes dinner. There will be a raffle to benefit LNJC. Sponsorship opportunities are available.

Watch a preview of *Paper Clips* at: [www.paperclipsmovie.com/trailer.php](http://www.paperclipsmovie.com/trailer.php).

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