



Levine-Sklut Judaic Library and Resource Center



Professional Development

By Amalia Warshenbrot, Director, Levine-Sklut Judaic Library

The Blumenthal Foundation continues its support.

Herman Blumenthal and the financial support from the Blumenthal Foundation were the major forces behind the success of the Carolina Agency for Jewish Education (CAJE) from its founding in 1983 until 2003. The mission of CAJE continues to be fulfilled even after its doors have closed. Where? In the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library & Resource Center (LSJL), which is our local focal point for Judaic research, educational support and professional development.

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"Without the generosity of the Blumenthal Foundation this would not have been possible."

— Renie Fernbach

The Blumenthal Foundation long ago realized the importance of Jewish education and made it possible for educators to attend conventions for Jewish educators specific for their institutions. The Blumenthal Foundation has never ceased to support Jewish education and now works with the LSJL to ensure our local religious teachers have training opportunities to enhance their skills.

This year the Blumenthal

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"I came away from the conference with many fresh ideas in lesson planning, programs to have with my students and a much deeper understanding of what it means to be a teacher in the Jewish community."

— Reuven Green

Foundation made it possible for four school directors, three teachers and the LSJL program director to attend national conventions for educators. Denise Abadi, the director of the Charlotte Jewish Preschool, went last month to the National Association for Education of Young Children (NAEYC). Roz Cooper, Director

of the Consolidated High School of Jewish Studies in Charlotte (Hebrew High), attended The North American Association of Community Hebrew High Schools (NAACHAS). Mariashi Groner, director of the Charlotte Jewish Day School, attended the Jewish Community Day School (RAVSAK) conference. Donna DeGroot, the director of Temple Emmanuel Religious School in Gastonia, and Talli Dippold, LSJL

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"Attending the conference (NAACHS) helps to keep our programs up to date and to ensure that the Jewish teens in Charlotte are receiving the best education available."

— Roz Cooper



Talli Dippold, Donna deGroot, Renie Fernbach, Reuven Green, and Hannah Kaunitz

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"One of the seminars that I attended was a program which I will introduce to the school this year."

— Hannah Kaunitz

program director, attended the Conference of the Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education (CAJE), which is the largest Jewish educators' organization.

Like many of our Judaic teachers, Donna wears several teaching hats. Donna also teaches at the Charlotte Jewish Day School and Hebrew High School chose to attend CAJE because it is geared for teachers in all types of schools, as well as all religious school subjects. Donna feels that the classes that she attended this year "have already amazingly affected the students." Talli Dippold, the program director at the LSJL, came back from the CAJE conference with renewed energy. (For those who know her, it's hard to believe she felt more energized after CAJE because her energy and enthusiasm are always high.) Talli is planning to invite various artists and expert to enrich the experience of our educators and parents in the community.

Other teachers attended the CAJE conference as well. Hannah Kaunitz is the Hebrew studies supervisor for Temple Israel Religious School. Hannah wrote that, the value of the conference experience will be evident, not

just for her, but for other teachers she can train. New ideas she brought back will bring the quality of the school's educational system even higher.

In addition to Hannah Kaunitz, Reuven Green, who teaches 2nd grade in Temple Beth El, 7th grade in Temple Israel and the 8th and 9th grade core class in Hebrew High School, attended the CAJE conference. Reuven says, "It can be challenging to be a teacher in Jewish life today with all that our students have to do and compete with." Reuven added, "It is very important for me to be able to help shape my students' Jewish identity by using not only a traditional approach, but also introducing the latest new ideas and skills that I could get from a conference like CAJE."

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"May the merit of tzedakah the Blumenthal Foundation gives bring success in all we do."

— Mariashi Groner

Renie Fernbach from Temple Beth El also attended CAJE. She agrees with Donna DeGroot and Reuven Green on two major benefits from the conference: Other teachers and students can have access to numerous sources for new material that attendees find out about. And the attendees are able to network with influential educators from around the world to brainstorm and share ideas with each other. ☆

We acknowledge with gratitude the following donations to the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library and Resource Center. These donations allow us to expand the collection of books, DVDs, CDs videos, maps, posters, games and various teaching aids. The entire community will benefit from these thoughtful gifts.

Friends of the Levine-Sklut JLRC Fund

Edwin and Leslie Rusgo in honor of Julius Goldman

New Library Express Service Now Offered

Levine-Sklut Jewish Library team offers you a new service.

Have trouble getting to Shalom Park when the library is open? Want a book to read? Need to research a Judaic subject? Want a book for your child? Want a DVD or Jewish music CD?

Just call us or email us and tell us what you want. We can leave items for you at the LJCC Front Desk. You can pick it up Monday - Thursday 5:30 AM - 9:30 PM; Friday 5:30 AM - 5 PM; Saturday 12 noon - 6 PM; Sunday 7 AM - 6 PM. Then return the items by dropping them in the at the drive-through book return box at the back entrance of the LJCC. You will not have to leave the car to drop the book off.

Simple, fast and free... what could be better?

Call 704-944-6763 or email library@shalomcharlotte.org to get started with our new Express Service at LSJL. ☆

The Levine-Sklut Judaic Library and Resource Center is pleased to announce

THE RETURN OF M&M

Massoret and Mishpachah (Tradition and Family)

Sue Schriber, education specialist for the "Reach for the Stars" Program at Child Care Resources, wrote a Family Tradition Story and Dance about The Teeny Tiny Man who celebrate Jewish holidays. In the past two years Sue has offered several successful early childhood programs that were extremely well received in the community.

The event is for children ages 4 and 5. Please look for email or a flyer in your child's school bag.

Spots are limited, to RSVP or for more information please call Talli at 704-944-6780.

We can't wait to welcome you on December 5 at 3:30 PM in the Children's Room of the Library.



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