

JFGC Celebrates Sister City Relationship with Hadera

Fifty people came together at Nolia Restaurant for an evening of friendship, partnership, and of course good Israeli food. The group gathered to talk about past and future Partnership 2000 programs, and to share with one another the impact that these relationships make on our lives.

Gabe Kaunitz, a participant in the Partnership and in this year's Gorelick Teens to Israel leadership program, spoke fondly of his experiences with the Partnership. Gabe spoke at great length about the bonds that were created with his friend Eliran (see sidebar). Eliran, who stayed with Gabe's family for two weeks in Charlotte, became a part of the family. The closeness and brotherhood achieved through Eliran's visit were felt by everyone in the room as Gabe spoke. Now participating in the current Gorelick Teens to



Susan Jacobs speaks to the crowd at Nolia about our relationship with Hadera..

Israel program, Gabe spent two weeks over the summer with a delegation of Israelis and Americans working to learn about themselves and about their cultures and communities. The group first spent a week and a half knee-deep in volunteering in Charlotte as well as exploring Diaspora Jewry, team building, and partnership. The group then traveled to Washington, DC together to study leadership in

America. The group will now meet up again six months later, this time for a two week journey through Israel. There, they will continue to volunteer and to study leadership and Judaism, this time from an Israeli perspective.

The teen trip is just one example of the many ways in which the partnership between Hadera and Charlotte is an ever-growing, living partnership. Other programs that were spoken to include the teacher exchanges and the women's mission to Poland and Israel. The group focuses on creating a living bridge, one that allows for Charlotte to be Hadera residents' home away from home, and for Hadera to do the same for Charlotte.

For more information on the Partnership 2000 program and how you can get involved, please contact Sarah Kaplan at sarah.kaplan@jewishcharlotte.org or 704-944-6751. ☆

Gabe Kaunitz participated with teens from Hadera in an exchange program. Here are his impressions, in his own words:

"Two summers ago was the first time I met my brother. He was about my height, had comrows, and was speaking gibberish. His name was Eliran.

"Now Eliran isn't actually my brother. He was on the delegation trip with three other Israelis from Hadera in Israel when he lived with my family for about two weeks. But we managed to pack so much into two weeks, at all hours of the night and day, that the dark trails under my eyes were as black as the coffee.

"Eliran went to Camp Mindy every day and then in the afternoon he'd come back home and I'd take him shopping someplace. You know, show him Charlotte's great tourist attractions. We'd have dinner with my Mom's great cooking, and afterward get together with the rest of the group and go bowling or go to the movies, or just drive around, which is usually what we ended up doing.

"At the end of the two weeks, the four of them went back home. The house was really quiet for the next couple weeks, but I counted myself lucky, because I had gained a brother and three sisters. And though I haven't seen them since, we still keep in touch, mostly thanks to Facebook.

"Six months later, during the gloom and doom of a huge thunderstorm, I was driving home, when our former *shlich*a, Tair Zaeh, called me on my cell phone. She told me about the opportunity to participate in a new program, different from last year. It would bring Israeli teens to Charlotte, not to help out at Camp Mindy, but to participate with American teens in programs ranging from tourism to community service. And, my personal favorite, it would bring American teens to Israel for two weeks to do the same types of programs. Naturally, I said I'd love to be involved.

"The first half of this program happened this last summer, and it was awesome. Five Israeli teens came to Charlotte and four of us were able to meet and bond with them. We went to the white water center, the American Hebrew Academy, and we participated in community service programs like gleaning, or helping out at the Second Harvest Food Bank. In addition, we went to Washington, DC and were able to tour America's capital city.

"The American delegation spent two weeks in Israel over winter break.

"In my opinion, these programs are the glue that hold Charlotte and Hadera's Partnership together, and I am glad that I get to be a part of it."

DownHome Jewish Life in North Carolina

TICKETS ON SALE- ORDER NOW!

The premiere showings of the documentary film, "Down Home: Jewish Life in North Carolina" will be held in Charlotte, NC on Sunday, February 22, 2009. We invite you to reserve your tickets now for the first milestone in this exciting multi-media project.

GALA TICKETS \$125.00 per person

(Festivities begin at 5:30 p.m. at the Levine Museum of the New South)
Cocktails and heavy hors d'oeuvres prior to the film showing
Reserved seating at the film premiere screening
Champagne and dessert reception following the film
Mingle with key individuals involved in the Down Home project before and after the debut

GENERAL ADMISSION

\$36.00 per person in advance • \$50.00 per person at door

(Arrive at the ImaginOn McColl theatre at 6:45 p.m. - film begins at 7:00)
Open seating at the film premiere screening
Champagne and dessert reception following the film
Mingle with key individuals involved in the Down Home project after the debut

Attendance is limited, so call today to reserve your tickets! Your attendance will play a significant part in the continued success and ongoing funding for this important historic initiative.

Film Premiere Gala Event:

Charlotte: Sunday, February 22, 2009

Reception at the Levine Museum of the New South (200 E. Seventh St.) followed by film screening and dessert reception at the ImaginOn McColl Theatre (300 E. Seventh St.)

Note: Handicapped transport between venues will be provided.

Order tickets online at www.jhfn.org

For more information, contact Will Grossman, JHFN Director of Operations: (919) 668-5839 or wgrossman@jhfn.org

Underwriters include:

State of North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
The Leon Levine Foundation: Sandra and Leon Levine



Detach here and return with your check to: JHFN, P.O. Box 51245, Durham NC 27717-1245

YES! I would love to attend the premiere of the Down Home: Jewish Life in North Carolina documentary film. **Please reserve my tickets:**

Number of tickets: Gala _____ General Admission _____

Check enclosed, payable to JHFN in the amount of _____

Cocktail attire preferred. Tickets will be held at the door for each event.

Name(s) of attendee(s): _____

Please send confirmation of receipt of this order to me by:

Phone _____

Email _____

YES! I am interested in learning more about sponsorship opportunities for the film premiere(s). Please contact me with more information.

Name _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Best time to call _____



www.jhfn.org

Calling All Bernstein Leadership Group Alumni



Please join us as we celebrate the kickoff of the seventh class of the Bernstein Leadership Group. All BLG alumni are invited to attend Jonathan Adam Ross's one-man show "Walking in Memphis: the Life of a Southern Jew" at 7:30 PM in Gorelick Hall at the Levine JCC, followed by dessert.

Alumni will also have the opportunity to share their BLG experiences with the new class during a Q&A session. We ask that they bring a non-perishable food item, which will be donated to Jewish Family Service's Food Pantry.

To RSVP, please send an email to events@jewishcharlotte.org or call 704-944-6757. Alumni, please also let us know if your contact information has changed in the past few years. We want to keep you informed about future BLG alumni events.

The Bernstein Leadership Group is the Federation's 18-month Leadership Development Program for young adults 25-45. ☆