



Mazel Tov & Congratulations



Jill Levinson Inducted into National Junior Honor Society

Jill Levinson has been inducted into the National Junior Honor Society. Jill is a rising 8th grader at Charlotte Country Day School. Her interests include reading, acting and singing. Recently, Jill has performed the role of the Cheshire Cat in the Mad Hatter's Tea Party and Mrs. Mayor in *Suessical the Musical*. She is the daughter of Peter and Cindy Levinson and attends Temple Israel.



Jill Levinson

Membership in NJHS is based upon a student's outstanding performance in the areas of scholarship, service, leadership, character and, citizenship. These criteria for selection form the foundation

upon which the organization and its activities are built.

Scholarship: At Charlotte Country Day School, students must have at least a cumulative grade point average of 3.7 (on a 4.0 scale) to be eligible for membership in NJHS.

Service: This quality is defined through the voluntary contributions made by a student to the school or community, done without compensation and with a positive, courteous, and enthusiastic spirit.

Leadership: Student leaders are those who are resourceful, good problem solvers, promoters of school activities, idea-contributors, dependable, and persons who

exemplify positive attitudes about life. Leadership experiences can be drawn from school or community activities while working with or for others.

Character: The student of good character upholds principles of morality and ethics, is cooperative, demonstrates high standards of honesty and reliability, shows courtesy, concern, and respect for others, and generally maintains a good and clean lifestyle.

Citizenship: The student who demonstrates citizenship understands the importance of civic involvement, has a high regard for freedom, justice, and democracy, and demonstrates mature participation and responsibility through involvement with such activities as scouting, community organizations, and school clubs. ☆

TOV M'OD

Among the 50 rabbis cited by Newsweek as the most influential is Charlotte's native son, **Rabbi Daniel Brenner**. Brenner, now a resident of Montclair, NJ, is the first executive director of Birthright Israel Next, a program for the alumni of the free Israel trip for 18-26 year olds.



Rabbi Daniel Brenner

Born in Charlotte, and bar mitz-

vahed at Temple Israel, Brenner studied for the rabbinate at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Philadelphia. Before starting Birthright Israel Next, Brenner worked for the Jewish think tank, The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership (CLAL). Brenner can be found at rabbidanielbrenner.blogspot.com.

The Charlotte Business Journal Honors Outstanding Chief Financial Officers

Congratulations to the 2009 Finalists:

Mark Brodsky, Red Ventures; **Marsha Gross**, Akima Management Services Inc.; **Sam Smoak**, Cook & Boardman Inc.

Thanks to sponsors Monaghan Group and Cherry, Bekaert & Holland.

Pillow Case Project

The group of Charlotte Jewish women known as "The Mavens" would like to thank the Charlotte Jewish community for donating over 180 hand decorated pillow cases for the children of Israel. Special thanks go to Temple Beth El Educational Director, Susan Jacobs, and the children of Temple Beth El, who created more than 75% of the pillowcases. The Ohr Ha Torah group of travelers, including Mavens Judy Marco and Lorrie Klemons, hand delivered pillowcases, along with lots of other goodies, to a kindergarten class in Hadera, Charlotte's sister city. Under the auspices of The Chabad Chessed Center in Hadera, this school was established to educate underprivileged children and children whose families have been victims of terrorism. The children danced and sang for the visitors to their classroom. The remaining pillowcases were donated to a Chabad Chessed Consignment Shop in Hadera which caters to the needy of the city.

Hadera has experienced a number of terror attacks which has taken the lives of many of its residents over the course of the Intifada. The security situation has had a strong impact on businesses, many of which have closed leaving large numbers of unemployed and countless families without a real income. Many of the city's families are living on the edge, scrambling to feed themselves, often feeling without hope. On the backdrop of this dismal situation, the Chabad Chessed Center in Hadera was established. The center clothes, feeds and educates those in terrible need. Today a "Jewish Heart" beats at the Chabad Chessed Center in Hadera.

Todah Rabah! Thank you very much to all who participated in our pillowcase project. ☆

Charlotte Media Personality and Author Stacey Simms Presented Check from Cookbook Proceeds to JDRF at Harris Teeter Celebrity Golf Classic

"I Can't Cook but I Know Someone Who Can" Contributes \$10,000 Toward A Cure For Type 1 (Juvenile) Diabetes

Who: Stacey Simms, author of "I Can't Cook but I Know Someone Who Can" and co-host of WBT Charlotte Morning News along with Tournament Celebrity Chair and Carolina Panthers Coach, John Fox; Celebrity Golfers including NASCAR drivers Kurt Busch and Kevin LePage, Panther players Matt Moore and Ryan Robertson and Charlotte Mayor Pat McCrory; Laura Maciag, Executive Director, JDRF Charlotte.

What: The Harris Teeter Celebrity Golf Classic benefits the Juvenile Diabetes Research



Stacey Simms, far right, presents a "check" to the JDRF.

Foundation (JDRF). The annual event was started in 1999 and has raised nearly \$600,000 for diabetes research.

When: Monday, June 8.

Where: TPC Piper Glen, 4300 Piper Glen Drive, Charlotte.

Why: Stacey is a member of the JDRF Charlotte board of directors and has a very personal tie to the disease. Her four-year-old son Benny was diagnosed at 23 months and lives with it every day. Coach John Fox has Type 2 diabetes and wrote the foreword to Stacey's cookbook.

About JDRF: Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) is the leading charitable funder and advocate of Type 1 (juvenile) diabetes research worldwide. The mission of JDRF is to find a cure for diabetes and its complications through the support of research. Last year more than 85% of JDRF's expenditures directly supported research and research-related education. ☆

Youth Visions

Hebrew Highlights

Planning is under way for the 6770 (2009-2010) school year at Hebrew High. Our teachers are busy creating exciting curricula to educate, excite and enrich all of our students. The theme of our elective classes for the first session this year is "Jewish Community," and we are sure there will be a class for every interest and every kind of learner. Following are synopses of some of our great classes:

1. Art Builds Community – The class will create murals that express what a Jewish community is. One will be traditional and done in a realistic style, the second will be a modernistic Jewish community and abstract, the third will be optimistic and done using symbolism. The final canvas will be of the Charlotte community and done in the style of a postcard. The art work will be researched, sketched, copied and painted in groups.

Paint and collage will be used. Through the creation of the art, we will explore the concept of Jewish community and become a community ourselves.

2. Hebrew Rocks the World – Israel is a land of immigrants. Each person brings with them the flavor of the country and culture where their family spent the diaspora years. It is only natural that this flavor should come through in popular music. We will investigate the history and cultural influences of today's top Rock and Roll stars in Israel for this course. We will also be learning some simple Hebrew vocabulary based on the songs. Each student receives a CD of the songs covered at the end of the class.

3. Jewtopia – What if Jews colonized outer space? What kind of world would we create? What laws would we follow? What language would we speak? How

would we dress? What kind of buildings would we need? What would a perfect Jewish planet look like? We will explore these questions and more as we create our Jewtopia, on paper, with LEGOs and maybe in a SIMS game.

4. On The Margins – The class will explore often ignored, marginalized communities. We will include Ethiopian Jews, women in religious communities, the poor, the disabled, the LGBT community and more. We will consider the plight of these groups, and discuss ways in which we, as a people, can become more inclusive.

5. SPARKS – SPARKS is all about community service and making a difference. The class is based in part, on a nationwide program dedicated to getting Jewish youth more involved in community service. In this class, we are going to not only learn about different Jewish and local charities, but we will be going to different agencies to lend a hand. Some of

the work will be in class, whether it's organizing a food drive, or making gifts for shut-ins. Other times we will be going off campus to help "in person." Either way, we will become "sparks" in the lives of the hungry homeless and otherwise oppressed.

There are many more surprises and great classes coming to

Hebrew High this year. Don't let your Jewish teenager miss out on the fun, learning and community that is Charlotte's Hebrew High. For more information or to register call Roz at 704-944-6782 or email rcooper@shalomcharlotte.org. Remember, Hebrew High is the place to be on Wednesday nights. ☆



Just ask these teens: Hebrew High is the place to be on Wednesday nights!