

## Alison Rosenberg Speech

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We are proud to say that Alison started her education from the "house on the hill" that was once CJDS. Mazel tov, Alison!

My name is Alison Rosenberg, and I am a senior at UNC Chapel Hill. I was a student at the Day School way back in 1996, when it was a house on a hill, with the "big room," a combined class of ten kids, and a homemade year-book consisting of collages and inside jokes from our graduating class. I have wonderful memories of my elementary school years, from putting on a play about Frog and Toad in first grade to traveling to Charleston in fourth, so when Mariashi asked me to speak tonight, I had no idea what to say. I did not want to disappoint her, this wonderful school, or you, parents who are creating an avenue for their children to receive a stellar foundation, both in Jewish and secular education. I asked my roommates for their opinions of what to say, and as much as they tried, I just didn't like any of their suggestions. I then called my mom, and of course shot down many of her ideas as well. I even did my homework instead of preparing something because I just didn't know how to begin to describe how this environment and education truly formed the basis for my educational and spiritual life.

I would like to think that I would have a pretty close connection to Judaism regardless of the Day School because of my parents and their involvement in the community, but I honestly don't know. I do know that the joy in Judaism and the Jewish culture that this school taught me is such a part of who I am and I cannot imagine where I would be without it. After graduating and moving on to middle school, I maintained a connection with my culture through temple religious school and my Bat Mitzvah. In high school, I was an active member of BBYO, serving on local and state boards, as well as participating in international conventions and programs. When I got to college, I did not immediately join Hillel and again focus on this singular, though encompassing aspect of my being; rather, I thought I would try to join campus organizations that catered to



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my other interests, such as public service and athletics. I stayed at school for Yom Kippur my freshman year and was miserable; everybody else continued with their normal routines while I walked across campus all dressed up and pretty hungry, to say the least. I took classes relating to Judaism and other religions, which eventually led to my second major in Religious Studies, yet I definitely felt a void, that I was missing that camaraderie, that instant connection, that I had so enjoyed in the past. Don't get me wrong—I adore my friends, I enjoy the activities in which I partake, and Carolina basketball definitely rules my life for five straight months—but that very basic understanding that generally exists between two Jewish companions was not a part of my college life, and I was not happy about it.

I found a study abroad program that would not only fit my academic needs, but that would hopefully exist as my outlet for Jewish learning in my college career. I spent last spring in Prague, the capital city of the Czech Republic, and one of the major cities in Central Europe, with 15 other students from across the country. Not of all these students were Jewish, but we shared a common interest in studying and experiencing Jewish life and culture in East Central Europe. Throughout these indescribable four-and-a-half months, I traveled to Poland and

Budapest, attending synagogue services, meeting and speaking with members of the communities, and tracing the historical steps of my Jewish ancestors.

The characteristic of loving to learn is undoubtedly a result of my formative years spent at the Charlotte Jewish Day School. Education here was made fun, a principle that I have carried with me to this day. We read tall tales dressed up like Paul Bunyan or Pecos Bill, learned origami with *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes*, and made our own Seder plates from start to finish.

This school's personal touch also enhanced this ideal. My third grade teacher played dodgeball with us almost every day on the playground. Parent volunteers joined with our teachers to drive us to the library every month. My fourth and fifth grade teacher even created a classroom library from her personal book collection, where she simulated a loan system for our enjoyment. Our regular gatherings in the "big room" allowed students and teachers alike to know each other across grade divisions, and even recognize our parents, not just by face, but by car as well, when they drove by the little ramp to pick us up each afternoon.

A few years ago, I asked two of the girls I babysit for to show me around the new facility, so I could see what my little house on the hill had become. I was amazed with the size, technology, and to be honest, authenticity, of this school. I went home and immediately told my sister that the Day School had become a "real school with a cafeteria and everything," and we were both instantly jealous that we couldn't go back to kindergarten and start all over again. As much as I would just love to be five again, I think we were also just so proud of what our alma mater had become. I can sincerely say that my memories from that house are positive and plentiful. They helped shape me into the person standing before you, a Jewish girl from the South, with a range of experiences, a love of learning, and an appreciation for her history. ✨

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## WOMEN'S NEWS

### Serendipitous Sunday at Cosmos Café

Sunday, November 18,  
2-4:30 PM

Join your Hadassah friends for a fantastic afternoon filled with fun and entertainment at Charlotte's new hot spot, Cosmos Café, 8420 Rea Rd. Sample the delicious delectables especially prepared at a cooking demo by Cosmos renowned chefs, Michael Blais and Jeffery Oliveri. Enjoy the beautiful artistry of our belly dancer. Enjoy scrumptious refreshments. There will be door prizes. Cover charge is \$10 with advanced registration, \$15 at the door.

In addition to all of that, plan to partake in our silent auction, raffle prize drawing, or (at a very special cost for all of our Hadassah members and their guests) have your caricature sketched or enlist the skills of our massage therapist who will be set up on premises for your added enjoyment.

All proceeds to benefit Hadassah.

RSVP by November 1 to [cbogus@carolina.rr.com](mailto:cbogus@carolina.rr.com) or 704-246-6964. Send your check to Cathy Bogus, 9525 Whitethorn Dr., Charlotte, NC 28277. ✨

