

## Hebrew Highlights

One of the goals of Hebrew High is to develop future leaders of the Jewish Community and cultivate a generation of mensches. Our students are active in all aspects of our community.

Here is a partial list of some of the mitzvot they have performed recently:

\* Hebrew High volunteers babysat and served refreshments at the Community Domestic Violence Awareness program.

\* Students in the SPARKS class made and donated Halloween costumes for the residents at the Alexander Children's Home. They also prepared donated cell phones for use by victims of domestic violence.

\* Student council members are spearheading a drive to collect gift cards, books and toys for "Bundles of Love" (a group that helps brighten the lives of children who are hospitalized for long periods).



Hebrew High students gather for a special all-school assembly.

\* Hebrew High teens joined their peers from other youth groups and helped to organize and implement the wildly successful "Up All Night For Israel" program.

We are extremely proud of all of our students, and think that the Hebrew High experience enriches the lives of all who participate. Therefore, it is the deep conviction of the CHS Advisory Board and the two sponsoring temples, that no student be turned away from Hebrew High due to an inability to afford the program. To

that end, the Advisory Board has created an endowed scholarship fund that will help defray the cost of our program for students in need. You can help insure Jewish continuity by contributing to our scholarship fund. Please consider earmarking the funds for Hebrew High when making donations in honor, or memory of a friend or loved one. Donations can be made through Temple Beth El, Temple Israel, or directly to the Consolidated High School of Jewish Studies office.

When you give the gift of Jewish Education, you are investing in the future of the Jewish people. At Hebrew High we prepare our students for the challenges they will face on college campuses and beyond. Help us make sure that no teen in Charlotte misses this opportunity. Please consider a gift to the CHS Scholarship Fund today. ☆

## BBG Shabbat

By Ellis Adin, Ohavim Safranit

On Friday night, November 6, the girls of the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization gathered to celebrate BBG Shabbat. This special tradition has been a part of BBG culture for many years, when girls of the organization come together within their chapters to celebrate Shabbat on the same night. Charlotte's two BBG chapters, Chai Chaverim and Ohavim met in Gorelick hall at the Levine JCC where they started off the evening lighting Shabbat candles and eating dinner together. As the service began, it was clear that the focus of the night was strength in women. Led by the chapter *Sh'lichim*, Sophie Bergmann and Lindsay Rosenthal as well as Council *Sh'lich*a Rachel Kaplan, the service talked focused on women such as Anne Frank and the power of strength. A reflection



Ohavim BBG holds a creative Shabbat service.

on how we can each personally work on ourselves to strengthen and correct some of our flaws followed the service. As the night drew to a close, the girls made bracelets with six colors of beads, each representing a different woman of strength and a characteristic. One of these beads symbolized Anita Pearlman, the founder of the B'nai B'rith Girls. Her characteristic was individuality. After many hugs, the night ended, but strength in women, as well as strength in BBGs, continues on. ☆

## Chasidic Reggae/Rap Star Matisyahu Visits Charlotte



Clockwise from left: Matisyahu participates in an afternoon minyan at Ohr HaTorah; Matisyahu at Chabad; the Friendship Circle volunteers were privileged to meet Matisyahu up close and personal; at Manifest records, Sara Bryan, youth advisor of Temple Beth El, met Matisyahu.



## Why are Adults Aurally Deprived on Chanukah?

By Charles Davidson

All over the world as the Festival of Lights approaches, kids and parents alike gleefully sing a hodgepodge of holiday tunes culled mostly from Yiddish

folk melodies. Though educational and certainly entertaining, their musical sophistication matches that of the four-to-ten-year-old set. Lyrics describe dreidels made of clay that tire and drop, invitations to light candles that will flicker in a row and the flour that is needed to prepare soufganiyot and latkes – traditional holiday fare. Songs from Israel depict the holiday time to plant vineyards, build houses and pave roads. Some pieces speak to the issue of freedom from tyranny, and there are even arrangements for the liturgical text *Al Hanisim*. But there is a serious dearth of music written for adults focusing on the less superficial aspects of the holiday.

Only a few musical pieces fit the bill. The oratorio *Judas Maccabaeus* by George Frederic Handel written in 1747 can be savored in its entirety or in sections ("See the Conqu'ring Hero Comes" or "Hallelujah, Amen"). In 1919, American composer Abraham Wolf Binder wrote *Judas Maccabee*. And we reach back to 1821 for the only other major work on Chanukah,

*Yehudah Makkabie*, an oratorio in Hebrew and German by M. H. Miro.

There are some good CDs available for adult Chanukah enthusiasts, including "Lights" by the Zamir Chorale of Boston and "The Chanukah Story" by Western Wind. Both are artfully arranged and performed with an enthralling depth of musicality. But it would be providential if contemporary Jewish composers could find significant inspiration in the story to write music of quality about the holiday that could be appreciated by an adult audience. Maybe an antiphonal piece on the civil war between the Maccabees and the Jewish Hellenists; perhaps a work highlighting the values and struggles of being Jewish in a non-Jewish world; or what of a composition emphasizing the rabbinical insistence on miracles as the essential theme of Chanukah.

Until that music exists, let us wish one another joyous and freilich Chanukah, in any key. ☆

Cantor Charles Davidson is Nathan Cummings Professor of Liturgy and Nusah ha-Tefillah at the Jewish Theological Seminary.

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