

Schools

CJP PTO-More Than an Auction

By Amy Vitner

So, I'm co-chairing The Charlotte Jewish Preschool's Silent Auction (for the second year in a row); and I get asked to write an article about the PTO for CJN's February issue. No problem, I say. But then there's the catch...just don't make the article all about the auction.

Ugh...what else is there to think about a month out from the big event?

After some consideration, I decide to give this a shot. After all, the PTO is more than an auction, right? As I dig out from under my donation lists and catering contracts, I start to think about the PTO and its role within CJP. I start to think about why I, and so many others, dedicate their time to the PTO. I start to think about the vast network of PTO volunteers that give back daily to our preschool making it a better place for our teachers, our families, our community and, most importantly, our children.

What is the PTO and what is its role within CJP? The CJP PTO provides an emotional, social and financial support network, which allows our preschool, and ultimately our children, to thrive and grow. The emotional support provided through events such as "Separation Anxiety Café" give new parents an opportunity to connect with veteran parents and receive the reassurance they need as they send their child off to

school for the first time.

Throughout the year, the PTO's Sunshine Committee welcomes new babies or reaches out to families in need. The PTO also provides emotional support to our teachers and staff through teacher appreciation week and bringing in goodies on parent/teacher conference week and other occasions throughout the year.

You could say that there is a social element in just about everything the PTO does.

Whether an organized playdate or parent social, fundraiser or even a PTO meeting, being involved in the PTO is a social activity.

These are where Mom's and Dad's connect with other Mom's and Dad's and lifetime friendships are formed. Speaking from personal experience, some of my best friends were made while volunteering at CJP.

And then there is the financial support that the CJP PTO provides. The money raised through PTO fundraisers such as Citipass, book fair, birthday bookclub, challah bread, and of course, CJP's largest fundraiser, its Annual Silent Auction, funds PTO sponsored events and programming such as teacher appreciation, graduation and socials. PTO-raised dollars also provide an important supplement to CJP's operating budget, which includes items such as classroom supplies, teacher salaries, bonuses, facility rent, maintenance and utilities. The

JPS: Keeps Getting Better

By Jen Lahn, M.S.W., director of the Jewish Preschool on Sardis

When I start seeing registration forms for the upcoming year, I'm always inclined to reflect on the current school year. I ask myself what worked and how can I make even more of a difference in the lives of students, parents, and the surrounding community next year. As the 2010 JPS registration period begins, I'm looking back with more pride than ever (and that's not to say that everything is perfect). With the help of staff and parents, some great changes have been set in motion. The highlights:

* Afterschool enrichment classes: When the traditional school day ends, students can choose from art, sports class, fine motor fun, and a range of other activities. They look forward to Fun with the Morahs, Art with Ms. Gwen or Cooking with Morah Pessie. These added choices have been a win-win for busy parents and busy toddlers.

* Extended day: Especially in today's economy, parents need flexibility. We view ourselves as an extension of every student's family and are here to provide support. Moms and dads can take care of outside responsibilities, while knowing their children are in a safe, loving, and fun environment. Ms. Angel and Ms. Cathy look forward to this special time with the children as much as the children do.

* Mitzvah committee: In Judaica, Morah Jayme and Morah



Tess Mullen is all smiles in music class.

Pessie emphasize the importance of mitzvot. We decided to form a mitzvah committee led by energetic, caring parents who felt passionate about taking these teachings beyond the classroom. They've orchestrated efforts to welcome new JPS families and to reach out to those in need in our community. Students have engaged in tzedakah programs and on the morning of December 25, JPS families fed the homeless at the Urban Ministry Center. Ashley Bundis, chair of the Mitzvah committee remarked, "It was truly exceptional to see our children helping 'the neighbors' at the soup kitchen." The Mitzvah committee will continue to be a source of support for JPS families as well as make their mark in the greater Charlotte community.

(Continued on page 15)



Charlotte Jewish Preschool

LEARN • GROW • CONNECT

financial support provided by the PTO plays an important role in CJP's fiscal health.

Why am I a CJP-PTO volunteer? I suppose everyone has their own personal reason for volunteering, but for me, I quite simply enjoy making a difference. There is personal satisfaction in knowing that in taking on a task and seeing it through that I am making CJP just a little bit better not only for my own children, but for my friends' children and for future children. And when you combine my own personal efforts with countless other PTO volunteers, I know that we are helping to create a truly special place of which the entire community can be proud.

So okay, can I plug the auction now? Just like the PTO is more than the auction, the silent auction is more than a fundraiser. It is also CJP's biggest social event of the year. It's an event filled with anticipation and excitement. What makes our annual auction special is that it is truly a group effort with just about every parent and teacher contributing in some way whether its procuring donations, contributing to a class basket or volunteer-

ing the night of the event. It is the CJP-PTO volunteer network at its finest hour.

This year's auction theme is *The Roaring 20s*, in honor of CJP's 20th Anniversary, and will

be held on February 20th at 7 PM at the Levine JCC. This event is open to the entire community. For an invitation to this event, please contact Amy Vitner at amy.vitner@gmail.com. ☆

PICK A ROSENFELD

for All Your Real Estate Needs

~ Over 35 Years Experience ~



Barbara
Helen Adams Realty
704-517-1547



Marshall
Queenstowne Realty
704-517-1073

J.B. TALLENT

FUNERAL SERVICE & CREMATORY

"Respecting Your Traditions And Values"

John Tallent, Sr., Frank Pierpont,
James Wilkins, John Tallent, III

Locally Owned & Operated

Full Service Funeral Provider

Privileged to Serve the Jewish Community
for Over 20 Years

1937 Sharon Amity Road
704-567-1500

(located across from Sharon Memorial Park)

Insurance & financial security should go HAND-IN-HAND.

An Allstate agency can help you with both your car insurance and financial needs—to help you prepare for what's coming down the road.

PROTECT YOUR CAR



\$338 On average, that's how much drivers saved when they switched to Allstate. With discounts like these, the savings can add up fast.

Safe Driver Discount

Avoid tickets and accidents, and you could save up to 15%

Good Student Discount

If your teenage driver has a "B" average or better, you could save up to 10%

Home & Auto Discount

Insure your house and car with Allstate, and you could save up to 10% on each policy.

Personal service from an Allstate agent

They'll work to help you find all the discounts you qualify for.

PREPARE FOR YOUR FUTURE



With a variety of financial products, an Allstate Personal Financial Representative can help you achieve your goals.

Care for your loved ones.

Plan today to help ensure your family's financial security in case the unexpected happens tomorrow.

Put your money to work for you.

Use tax deferral to help fund your retirement.

Learn about education savings.

Start saving for your child's future with a tax-advantaged college savings account.

Live comfortably in retirement.

The right financial products can provide retirement income while preserving your nest egg.

You deserve an agent who does more than just insurance as usual. That's Allstate's Stand.



Michael Littauer
704-573-1113
7032 Brighton Park Dr
Charlotte



Savings based on information reported by new Allstate customers. Actual savings will vary. Insurance subject to availability and qualifications. Auto insurance written by Allstate Property and Casualty Insurance Company. Life insurance and annuities offered through Allstate Life Insurance Company (Home Office: Northbrook, IL). Securities offered by Personal Financial Representatives through Allstate Financial Services, LLC (LSA Securities in LA and PA). Registered Broker-Dealer. Member FINRA, SIPC. Main Office: 2920 South 84th Street, Lincoln, NE 68506. (877) 525-5727. (C) 2007 Allstate Insurance Company