

## JPS Grandparents Strengthen Tradition

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

Each classroom I visited on that special day in March was filled with generations—generations of Jewish families, Jewish traditions,

and Jewish artifacts. Grandparents Day at JPS is an event that's not only filled with fun, but one that leaves a lasting impression on everyone.

With a grandparent by their side

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Lily Slomka and her grandma, Elaine Shefflin, share hugs and smiles.

to lend a helping hand, every student made a mezuzah and braided challah. The two-year-olds hand-painted their mezuzot, the three-year-olds made sand art mezuzot, and the four-year-olds created ones from stained glass. What fun it was to watch these generations make memories together. I am certain that as they gathered at their Shabbat table that Friday evening, they relived the festivities from their time together in the classroom, and as they said the hamotzi over the challah they braided together smiles abounded.

Through the years, grandparents have become part of our JPS family. Many have been coming to JPS Grandparents Day year after year, and others have just joined our family. Nonetheless, each one left with a feeling of belonging and a feeling that their heritage would carry on. It is so much fun for me to reconnect with many of the Bubbes and Zaydes. One Zayde remembered me being his older granddaughter's teacher and reflected on the "Tooty Ta" he danced in my class. A Bubbe made me feel like her own when she

preached how proud she was of me for being at the helm of the school now. Then, she shared her own nachas, recalling her Pesach Seder last year, when hearing her three-year-old grandson reciting the first question brought tears of joys to her eyes. She was amazed and thanked me for helping these traditions continue.

I walked away from this interaction with my own nachas: This is what JPS is all about. We are doing a good job. We are fulfilling our mission and our vision. We are planting a seed in



Brooke Hollander creating a sand art mezuzah and memories with her grandmother.

**In our effort  
to recognize our  
sponsors for this  
year's Silent  
Auction we  
inadvertently left  
out  
YOUR EVENT  
SOURCE.**

these children, igniting a light in them that they will carry to elementary school and beyond. With the right nurturing and love, the right experiences, and the ability to explore, we are setting a Jewish foundation for these children. The grandmother who shared her joy with me made me reconnect with the "why" in my days. I am here to make a difference in the lives of the Jewish children in Charlotte. I am committed to igniting that light in them. ☆



### Levine-Sklut Judaic Library and Resource Center



## ISreel: Cinematic Views of Israel

**Thursday, April 15 at 7 PM in the  
Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Art**

Join the Charlotte Jewish Film Society as it continues its cinematic journey to the land of Israel. This time, in honor of Israel's 62nd anniversary we will be reliving the dramatic events leading up to Israel's creation with Alan Rosenthal's stirring documentary "Waves of Freedom."

Rosenthal, a veteran documentarian with over 50 films to his credit, worked for ten years on "Waves," which tells the story of secret American efforts to purchase and man a fleet of barely-seaworthy ships, load them to the brim with displaced Jewish concentration-camp survivors and smuggle them past British ships barring the port of Haifa.

Through poignant, insightful, colorful and sometimes humorous interviews, interspersed with historic footage, "Waves" documents the amazing stories of American men, Jewish and not Jewish, who volunteered and risked their own freedom to deliver 1,500 refugees to their homeland. One of these volunteers will lead a discussion after the film.

Included in this film is footage shot on board their ship, newsreels of the time and remembrances by one couple who met on the ship, married, and are now living in Israel. Additionally, there are interviews with several former members, including a rear admiral



of the Palestine Patrol - the Royal Navy unit charged with Britain's preventing "illegal" immigration into Israel - telling their side of the events. These are true stories upon which the Hollywood blockbuster film *Exodus* was based.

Co-sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte this event is free and open to the public. For more information please contact Tair Giudice, Program Director, at 704-944-6763. ☆



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