

The Charlotte JEWISH news

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An Affiliate of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte

The Margit and Peter Simon Tennis Pavillion Dedication Ceremony

The Margit and Peter Simon Tennis Pavilion Dedication Ceremony was held at the Levine Jewish Community Center on March 13. Mr. Peter Simon, a resident of New York City, has made this possible through a generous donation inspired by his great affection for the Jewish community of Charlotte. The Tennis Pavilion is currently under construction and is scheduled to be completed by this summer. This spectacular addition to the Levine JCC facility will provide spectator seating for tournaments such as the newly established Margit & Peter Simon Tennis Championship. It will also be a venue for a variety of social events.

Mr. Peter Simon, 92, has frequently visited his family here in Charlotte and has come to view the city as his "second home." Mr. Simon, through his nephew Mark



Peter Simon accepts an engraved tray from Phil Berman, CEO of the Levine JCC.

Lerner, contacted Philip Berman for suggestions as to how he could demonstrate his appreciation for the Charlotte Jewish community. Since Mr. Simon and his late wife, Margit, had been avid tennis players the idea of building a tennis pavilion held great appeal.

Peter Simon was in Charlotte

on March 13 to attend the Bar Mitzvah of Sean Lerner, the son of Alyson and Mark Lerner and grandson of Lynn and Paul Edelstein. The Levine JCC viewed this as the perfect opportunity to honor Mr. Simon at a Dedication Ceremony and Reception, which was attended by his family and friends. Also in attendance were Levine JCC staff members, various Directors of the LJCC Board, members of the Tennis Committee along with some of our tennis players and program participants.

Levine JCC CEO Philip Berman, on behalf of the Levine Jewish Community Center, expressed gratitude for Mr. Simon's generosity and presented him with an engraved memento of

the occasion. In his remarks, Phil noted that Mr. Simon's love for tennis began in his native Berlin and that he continued to play until very recently. The trophy for the Margit and Peter Simon Tennis Championship was unveiled. It will remain on display at the LJCC to be inscribed with the names of future tournament winners.

Eric Lerner spoke briefly of his uncle's warmth, humor, generosity and love for Charlotte. Mr. Simon took a few moments to share his feelings of appreciation for the "wonderful and overwhelming recognition that has been bestowed upon me." Mr.



(L-R) Jennifer Simon, Peter Simon Jr., Mark Lerner, Lee Tolchen, Gary Lerner, Peter Simon, Eric Lerner, Lynn Edelstein, Paul Edelstein, Shlomo Rosenberg, Julie Levine.

Simon went on to say that he "has been honored to be a part of the Charlotte Jewish Community by extension" that he and looks forward to being here even more often. ☆

DrumsForCures Presents drumSTRONG on May 15-16

Now that drumSTRONG, the annual drum-a-thon that raises money for pediatric cancer causes, has become an annual event in Charlotte, it should come as no surprise that communities around the globe are planning to join the beat. While the 28-hour local event unfolds (noon on May 15 through 4 PM on May 16), people will be drumming in at least 46 other cities in 12 countries to raise money for the same charities.

Scott and Carola Swimmer began their marathon drumming event as a result of their son

Mason's brush with cancer as a teenager. The first event, a 24-hour drum-a-thon, was recorded in the Guinness Book of World Records in addition to raising money for pediatric cancer. Each year, the Swimmers have increased the length of the event by one hour, making this year's 28-hour event another contender for a world record.

But drumming for a world record is really not the focus of the event. Raising money for pediatric cancer is. And how do they do it? Each drummer who participates in

the continuous drumming will take pledges or make donations for the length of time they drum. Funds raised can be designated for any pediatric cancer cause, but local funds that are designated for the Levine Children's Hospital will be matched in full by the Leon Levine Foundation.

The weekend event is full of more fun and music than just continuous drumming. There are many guest drummers, some who are scheduled in advance (**Jim Donovan** of Rusted Root; **Jeff Sipe**, a well-known



Kids of all ages can participate in drumming.

There are prizes for some of the drummers (longest drumming, etc.) but the real reward is the ultimate goal of helping young people with cancer and their families.

DrumSTRONG will take place again at Misty Meadows Farms, 455 Providence Rd. S., Waxhaw.

To register, to sponsor, to donate or to volunteer, visit www.drumstrong.org. ☆

drummer who has played with Leftover Salmon, Col. Bruce Hampton, Keller Williams, Susan Tedeschi and others), some who show up spontaneously. There is also a Health Fair with more than 40 exhibitors in the health and wellness fields.

How drumSTRONG Works

First register (www.drumstrong.org). Then, if inclined, join or form a team (teams can raise more awareness and money). Next, talk to everybody you know about supporting you in your efforts by sponsoring your hourly drumming (e.g., \$20 per hour x 5 hours x 10 team members = \$1,000!).

The idea is to do two things at once: raise money to help eradicate cancer AND be part of a record breaking drumming event.



Scott, Mason, Toby and Carola Swimmer.



ALSO INSIDE ...

Shavuot and a first haircut on Lag B'omer...

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