

JEWISH FEDERATION NEWS

Campaign Testimonial

Creating the Foundation for Jewish Life at the Lake

By Andy Nicholson

I remember well walking to temple for the high holidays with my grandfather as a young child, sitting next to him and holding the fringes of his talit in my hand. Listening to him read from the prayer book, I marveled at the ease with which he said the prayers. He could read the Hebrew so well, words I was just beginning to understand in Hebrew school. I liked the part when everyone said Amen.

On our walk home I asked him how he knew the prayers by heart and could read so fast. He said, "You will too, a little at a time." He explained it was like building a house and creating a good foundation. The foundation is Hebrew school; through study and desire you build the walls and roof. Now many years

later with children of my own, I found myself at Yom Kippur services thinking of my grandfather and wondering if my children will grow to know and love Judaism as I have. Surrounding us I was pleased to see other Jews in the Lake Norman area also pursuing a greater Jewish community, giving monetarily and of their time to build a foundation for their families. I asked our Rabbi Michael Shields how I could assist in supporting our growing Jewish community. He guided me towards a project being organized through a grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte called the Jewish Council of Lake Norman. The council would be comprised of Jewish leaders from all areas of



The Nicholson family.

Lake Norman Jewish life who would together bring in Jewish programming, inspire Jewish philanthropy, and strengthen Lake Norman Jewish life. I knew this was my chance to make an impact.

The Council, of which I am a part, is comprised of five local

Jewish organizations. The Council facilitates events such as: Israeli journalists and author lectures, Klezmer music in the Mecklenburg School System and an Annual Festival at the Lake with music, dancing, food, and kid's games. Events like these bring the Jewish communal spirit of Lake Norman alive.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte had the insight to see that Jews at the Lake wanted to experience Jewish life in their immediate surroundings, taking steps to put the building blocks in place that would create our own solid foundation. It is my hope that as our Jewish community grows, we will be able to do more

through the work of the Federation to help other Jewish communities meet their needs.

As I look forward to next Yom Kippur, my question has been answered: my children will have the opportunity to grow with and love Judaism the way I do in our community. ✪

Save the Date: Jewish Council of Lake Norman Festival at the Lake, Sunday, August 29, 12 noon - 5 PM, Ramsey Creek Park.



Lead + Read = Succeed

Federation's Young Adult Division Brings Hope to Kids in Boston

The wide-eyed boy smiled as he carefully wrote his first name, Abdul, inside the cover of his new book, "Amelia Bedilia." He and his first-grade classmates at Boston's Perkins Elementary School then began reading the donated books given to each of them by the visitors.

The visitors wore green T-shirts declaring, "Lead+Read=Succeed" with the bold menorah logo of The Jewish Federations of North America. It was all part of a book drive service project during The National Young Leadership

Conference in Boston this March 14-16, which drew more than 220 young Jewish professionals from 50 communities across the continent. Representing Charlotte were Tair Giudice, Young Adult Coordinator, and Melissa Klingberg, Federation's Young Adult Chair.

But the project was just one part of an overall leadership-building experience for Melissa and Tair, who worked on developing personal leadership and community visions to put into action upon their return to

Charlotte. "Getting to hear from such inspiring speakers such as Jeffrey Swartz, President and CEO of Timberland and Michael Brown, CEO and co-founder of City Year was an amazing experience" says Melissa, "it really inspired us to become visionary leaders within our own community."

If you are interested in getting involved with Federation's Young Adult Division please contact Tair Giudice at 704-944-6759 or tair.giudice@jewishcharlotte.org. ✪



Tair Giudice and Melissa Klingberg with their new friends at Boston's Perkins Elementary School.

The Jewish Community Relations Council met with area clergy for a lunchtime meet and greet. The JCRC sponsors a periodic Lunch at the Park for local community leaders to meet members and get familiar with Shalom Park and the facilities and camaraderie we have to offer.



Left to right back row: Butch Rosen, Executive Director, Foundation of Shalom Park; Rabbi Murray Ezring, Temple Israel; Moira Quinn Klein, Jewish Community Relations Council; Sue Worrel, Executive Director, Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte; Monsgr. McSweeney - St. Matthews Catholic Church. Left to right, front row: Zach Gerger, JCRC; Sarah Kaplan, Community Relations and Israel Affairs Coordinator, JFGC; Rabbi Judy Schindler, Temple Beth El; Dr. Lib McGregor Simmons - Davidson College Presbyterian Church; Bob Speizman, JCRC.

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