

Gaston College President Honored with Wisdom of Solomon Award

On June 3, Gastonia's historic synagogue, Temple Emanuel, presented Patricia Skinner, Ph.D., president of Gaston College, the second annual Wisdom of Solomon Award. The ceremony took place at Rodi Restaurant at the Loft in Gastonia at 6 PM.

Throughout her 15-year tenure as president of Gaston College, Skinner has overseen enormous growth of the institution from one campus to three. In addition to the two new campuses, under her leadership Gaston College has added 11 new buildings including 330,955 square feet of educational space.

The growth of Gaston College has allowed the institution to help thousands of people who have lost jobs in the recession by giving them the opportunity to learn new skills in technologically-advanced



Left to right: Joan and Charlie Brown, Dr. Patricia Skinner, Alan and Suzanne Nash, Jason Gluck.

areas. Through its Textile Technology Center, BioNetwork BioEd Center, Science and Technology Center, and advanced adoption of distance learning tech-

nologies, Gaston College is helping the surrounding community learn to compete in the economy.

Skinner, a first generation American, was encouraged to pur-

sue her educational dreams by her mother, Vera, whose own love of learning instilled in her a thirst for knowledge. She attended Lake Michigan College in her hometown of Benton Harbor, MI, then transferred to Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, MI where she earned her bachelor's, master's and specialist of arts degrees. She received her Ph.D. in higher education administration from The Ohio State University.

Following her formal education, Skinner has served as an instructor of business, office administration and management at colleges and universities in Michigan, Massachusetts and Ohio. Before coming to North Carolina, she was an administrator for the Ohio Board of Regents, and then served as vice president of academic and student affairs at Clark State Community College in Springfield, Ohio.

"Dr. Patricia Skinner embodies all the characteristics of a great

leader – wisdom, innovation and sound decision-making," said Jason Gluck, president, Temple Emanuel. "We could not imagine a more qualified person to receive the Wisdom of Solomon Award. Patricia's dedication to our community and leadership at Gaston College has changed the lives of thousands, helping us all become more prosperous and brightened all our futures."

The 2010 Wisdom of Solomon award is given by Temple Emanuel of Gastonia, NC. Temple Emanuel has been serving and representing the Jewish community of Gaston, Lincoln, Cleveland, York and Mecklenburg counties for almost 100 years. Founded as the Hebrew Congregation of Gastonia in 1913, the synagogue was built in 1929. More information about the Wisdom of Solomon award can be found at www.templemanuelgaston.org. ✪

Lake Norman Jewish Congregation Mitzvah Day

Hard work and lots of fun marked the first Lake Norman Jewish Congregation Mitzvah Day. The congregation lent a hand to clearing and beautifying the

grounds of the Levine & Dickson Hospice House in Huntersville on Sunday, May 15.

While the word "mitzvah" is often translated as a good deed, it

actually means "commandment" or the fulfillment of a commandment.

"This was our first congregation-wide justice project," said LNJC Rabbi Michael Shields. "It sets the bar for our congregation quite high and challenges us to continue such projects because as Jews this is what we are commanded to do."

Almost 100 LNJC congregants pitched in for the day of work, which also marked the end of the religious school year.

"There is no more meaningful end to our religious school year than this project," said Rabbi Shields. "Over the course of the year we have been teaching what it means to be Jewish; that we are called by God to "tzedek tzedek tirdof," pursue justice. Our study and our prayer would have been

empty had we not engaged in this mitzvah day and other acts of justice and peace throughout the year."

Mitzvah Day at LNJC immediately preceded the Jewish holiday of Shavuot, which celebrates the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai.

Rabbi Shields said, "It was quite appropriate that Mitzvah Day fell around the holiday festival of Shavuot. The work of our hands in helping others affirms our faith and re-dedicates us to that sacred covenant with God, with the Jewish people and with humanity."

It is customary to eat a dairy meal at least once during Shavuot. It wasn't hard to get the children of LNJC's religious school to keep



Participants in Lake Norman Jewish Congregation's Mitzvah Day.

that custom. They took a break from weeding and mulching to make their own ice cream.

The Lake Norman Jewish Congregation welcomes those interested in learning, worship and fellowship in an inclusive Jewish environment. Our goal is to promote a sense of belonging and acceptance within the congregation as well as the community at large by creating a place for spiritual growth while fostering Jewish tradition, education and culture. ✪

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Welcome Back Morah Devorah

The new face in the TIRS office is that of an old friend. We are pleased to welcome back Denise Abadi, otherwise known as Morah Devorah, as interim Principal of Temple Israel Religious School. Denise and her husband Michael moved to Charlotte ten years ago from Philadelphia. She has been involved with TIRS as a teacher here in Charlotte and in the Lake Norman program since her first year as a Temple Israel member. Denise was also a teacher and then Director of The Charlotte Jewish Preschool for eight years. Denise began teaching in 1978 and has had extensive experience in both secular and Judaic settings over the years.

"I hope to bring a strong sense of Jewish identity to our children. It is very important for each child and family to feel connected to being Jewish and to feel they have a place in Temple Israel," Denise stated when asked what her goals are. "I'd like everyone to be excited and enthusiastic about what they bring to TIRS. I know I am. We will continue to have fun together and create a strong Jewish presence in the lives of our

families," she added.

Some of her plans include cooperative programming efforts with both Temple Israel Sisterhood and Temple Israel Men's Club as a way to offer more inclusive experiences for both children and the adults in their lives. Look for more information as the year unfolds.

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Denise Abadi

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To learn more please contact Phil Warshauer, Executive Director of the Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community at 704-973-4544 or pwarshauer@charlottejewishfoundation.org

A copy of the latest Financial Report and Registration filed by United Jewish Communities, Inc. may be obtained by contacting Joseph Stalbow at United Jewish Communities, Inc., 25 Broadway, Suite 1700, New York, NY 10004, 212-284-6500. You may also obtain financial information directly from the following state agency: North Carolina: Financial information about United Jewish Communities, Inc. and a copy of its license are available from the State Solicitation Licensing Section at 1-888-830-4989. The license is not an endorsement by the state.

Temple Israel Book Club **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 7:30 PM**
Sarah's Key by *Tatiana De Rosnay*

Co-sponsored with the Temple Beth El Book Club
Jewish Community Center – Board Room opposite the registration desk

Sarah's Key is available at the public library, the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library and local book stores for under \$15.

As always, book club meetings are open to all members of the community, including "drop-ins." For additional information contact Linda Levy at 704-366-6362/levyollie@aol.com or Sandra Hirschman at 704-867-7051. ✪