

Hebrew Cemetery Association

**Annual Memorial Service,
September 12 – 10:30 AM, 1801
Statesville Avenue, Rain or Shine**
By Lorrie Klemons, Publicity

At the closing of the Yom Kippur Neilah service on September 18, the Book of Life will be sealed for yet another year. How many of us will be inscribed for another year of life? On what does God base that inscription?

We Jews believe that our God is a merciful and forgiving God. We also know, many of us through first-hand experience, that being a good person and having a good neshamah (Godly soul) does not necessarily guarantee another year of life. In fact, we know that bad things happen to good people. If being a good person and following in the image of God by praying, performing mitzvot, and studying Torah, does not guarantee us life year after year, than why the need for such prayer and supplication and self-deprivation (fasting) on Yom Kippur?

The most learned rabbis cannot explain why bad things happen to good people? We can ask the rabbis and God Himself, all the questions we want – and in Judaism we are required to ask those questions; however, for some questions there are just no sufficient answers. Judaism teaches us that prayer, the performance of mitzvot and the study of Torah are the most important things a Jew can do. In performing mitzvot, we become almost God-like. The tradition of Kabbalah tells us that when God created the universe He had a huge container to put all of the holiness into. But there was so much holiness that the container broke into a thousand pieces. It became our task as newly created

men and women of the world to go around and retrieve God's holiness.

During the High Holidays, when we gather in prayer as one universal Jewish community, God smiles down on us for the holiness we portray. We gather in prayer. We gather in song. We gather in ritual. We gather in love. We gather as one loud chaotic crowd and yet periodically we hush quietly to hear God's small voice. That small voice, which looms in the chasms of our consciousness and subconsciousness. That small voice, which gives direction and meaningfulness to our lives. That small voice, which creates the faith that guides us to do God's work here on earth.

So yes, while bad things do happen to good people, holiness remains the essence of life. And though living a holy life may not guarantee your being inscribed in the Book of Life from one year to another, it sure does make you a great and righteous person, and a person who will be memorialized by others for the holiness and goodness that made you so special.

We are living in times of unprecedented economic turmoil. Jobs are hard to keep. Homes are being foreclosed. Money is tight. For many of our friends and neighbors, the present is gloomy and dark and their prospect for the future is scary and uncertain. Now more than ever, the Hebrew Cemetery Association needs your support. Your tax deductible annual dues of \$72 will help maintain a dignified and sanctified resting place for all those who precede us in eternal life.

If you would like to make a

donation to memorialize a loved one, send your check payable to the Hebrew Cemetery to 4229 Peggy Lane, Charlotte, NC 28227. For more information about membership benefits, graves, prepaid funeral costs, endowments, contact cemetery Director, Sandra Goldman at 704-576-1859 or 704-944-6854 or director@hebrewcemetery.org. Visit the cemetery website at www.hebrewcemetery.org. where you can learn more about the cemetery or make a donation.

Please join us and your favorite rabbi as our community gathers at the cemetery to memorializes loved ones, friends and other fellow-Jews during the Cemetery Association's Annual Memorial Service on September 12 at 10:30 AM, rain or shine. The cemetery is a holy, serene and dignified place. Come see for yourself.

May we all be inscribed in the Book of Life for yet another sweet year. L'Shanah Tovah. ✨

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Teen Freedom Riders

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and, more importantly, they forge their own groundbreaking paths toward greater social justice."

Before reaching Charlotte, the students and group leaders explored New York City and Greensboro. From Charlotte, they traveled by bus to ten cities in four states including Atlanta, Birmingham, Montgomery, Selma, Meridian, Jackson, the Mississippi Delta, and Memphis. The group returned to DC by plane on July 29.

In the months following the journey, these young leaders will take an active role sharing the ideas and lessons they learned in OUDC by facilitating prejudice awareness and reduction workshops throughout the community.

Since 1995, OUDC has empowered nearly 400 Washington-area youth to speak out against racism, anti-Semitism and all forms of discrimination. Ways our graduates dedicate themselves to continuing the work



they began in OUDC include: securing the freedom of wrongly convicted prisoners; shaping public policy at the national, state and local levels; strengthening schools and neighborhoods as National Teaching, Teach for America, Coro and Avodah fellows; and community organizing on issues of affordable housing, education and workers' rights.

OUDC uses a two-community model to give students the opportunity to explore African American and Jewish cultures, religions and histories in-depth. By focusing on these two groups, who have had such similar universal histories of being subjugated, feared and maligned, students graduate from the year-long program with a true understanding and appreciation of both communities. OUDC's comprehensive education enables its students to be effective ambassadors for all forms of diversity. ✨

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ADMISSIONS OPEN HOUSE DATES

Sunday, October 3 at 2 p.m. | Monday, October 18 at 7 p.m. | Thursday, November 11 at 9:30 a.m.
Multicultural: Tuesday, December 7 at 7 p.m. | Global: Friday, January 21 at 9:30 a.m.

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