

Community News

December and Beyond at Chavurah Without Walls

Chavurah Without Walls (CWW) is hosting its yearly AIPAC meeting December 4 at Joel's Pizzeria (formerly Izzy's Cafe). AIPAC is the Israeli lobby in Washington. They are responsible for educating Congressman and Senators, and indirectly the White House, on Israel's needs, positions and interests. A lot is going on in the Middle East, including Iran, and AIPAC's job is to keep abreast of developments so that they can inform and advise our government. This is the sixth yearly visit from AIPAC to our group and we have always learned new things about Israel and Washington's position vis a vis Israel. We have been impressed at the depth of AIPAC's knowledge and understanding of what is going on in the Middle East and in Washington. So come join us and meet new Jewish friends in the community and learn what is going on and how you can sup-

port Israel in Washington. There will be snacks and refreshments and a \$5 charge in advance and \$7 at the door. Please RSVP to erapaport@carolina.rr.com or call 704-296-2752. Joel's Pizzeria is located on 5668 International Dr. #A in Charlotte, 704-200-2617, a stone's throw from Shalom Park, on Providence Rd.

We would like our friends in the community to also know about the next Israeli Coffee House. It is scheduled for January 8 at Joel's Pizzeria. For those who have been to an Israeli Coffee House, you know it is lots of fun. We will have Israeli music singing a performing Israeli Folk Dance group homemade fresh Israeli food made by our Israeli friends, a shash bash (Backgammon) and Rummy Cube contest and an Israeli Shuk (open air market featuring arts and crafts). It's lots of fun and a great opportunity to meet new friends in a pleasant Israeli atmosphere. So,

welcome to Israel. If you don't have money to fly to Israel this year, come to the Israeli Coffee House in January.

We have another special event planned for January. Our November event was a real eye opener on NeuroLinguistic Programming. NLP is a form of psychology that analyzes our speech as it reflects our thought processes and emotions. It is a way for us to trace through our emotions and discover our deepest hang ups and mental blockages and to deal with them in an amazingly effective manner. We were amazed at how effective and insightful this program can be. Now we are going to turn our focus to the Torah. We all recall the stories of dysfunctional families in the Torah. We learned about the struggles and trickery that characterized the relationship between Jacob and Esau. Jacob was the focus of a very strong (and

very goal focused) mother and Esau was the focus of a weak passive father. Such a polarization had a profound effect on their development. They had different patterns of thinking and different views of themselves and their dysfunctional family members. We are going to explore this most interesting subject through NLP. We are going to explore some amazing insights into who our forefathers were and who we are as a people. The first lecture was a real winner. This one will take us home.

CWW is a Jewish social organization that brings Jews from all aspects of the Jewish community together. There is an awful lot of Jewish culture that cannot be intimately explored in the synagogue environment. We explore and experience Jewish culture from the history to the Jewish people to their culture art music food art politics and play. But mostly we

have fun together and there is plenty of homemade tasty food. We are an informal group of friends. We try to foster a warm and welcoming atmosphere so that people will feel they are part of an extended family. We generally meet the first Saturday night of each month. We also have a Torah study group, which will be discussing the story of the prophets on the third Saturday night of the month. We also have informal movie, game and women's interest groups that meet independently. So if you want to meet other Jewish people from a different part of the Jewish community, or you just want to know more about Jewish culture, come join us. For more information contact Chavurahwithoutwalls@gmail.com or call 704-236-6080. Shalom and hope to see you at our upcoming events. ☆

CJFF Film Selection Committee Hard at Work

"Is it Jewish enough?" "Never seen anything like it." "Why have I never heard of him?" "That one will be a crowd pleaser."

Those were just some of the comments heard around the JCC this fall as the Film Selection Committee for the Charlotte Jewish Film Festival met to consider their choices.

The process began last summer when Festival Curator Debby Block began scouring the internet for films that were showing at other festivals around the country. It continued in the fall as the committee found films that were brand new to the festival circuit, and some that were not even released yet but in the final stages of production.

Once the committee narrowed its selection to a manageable list, producers were contacted and screening copies (screeners) were sent to Charlotte to be considered. The group then convened at least once a week to view and evaluate films together.

There are a number of factors that went into the committee's selection process. "Some festivals may select a film just because it has a Jewish director," said Curator Block. "But for our festival, we want films that have Jewish content or a Jewish message to it. We stick to our mission: To illuminate global Jewish experience through film."



In order to fulfill that mission, the committee looks for films that contain a message of Jewish pride, convey some sense of Jewish history or were made in Israel.

"The Jewish film industry has made tremendous strides in the last 5-10 years," said committee newcomer Rick Willenzik. "We found a number of films that made our final consideration list that were terrific. The Jewish films we looked at had tiny budgets but told compelling stories that excited and moved us."

Finally, in November the group met on several occasions to finalize the selections. "There are only so many slots that we have," said Block. "We had to determine what would be best for our Charlotte

audiences and, in some cases, go back and forth and 'fight' for the ones we thought should be in our festival."

The final slate will not be announced until after the first of the year, but one film that definitely made the cut is "Where I Stand: The Hank Greenspun Story." This documentary is about long-time newspaper publisher Hank Greenspun.

"Our committee was floored by this one," said Block. "It's an astonishing look at a fascinating individual none of us had heard of, but who had been involved in some of the biggest news events of the 20th century. We're very excited to have this film in our festival."

Months of preparation by the film selection committee results in ten days of the best in Jewish film from around the world ... right here in the Queen City. The 7th Annual Charlotte Jewish Film Festival runs March 3-13, 2011 at various locations around the city. Be sure to check the February Charlotte Jewish News for a tri-fold insert with the full slate of films, venues and times. Tickets will be available for purchase starting in February at www.charlottejewishfilm.com.

The Charlotte Jewish Film Festival is brought to you by the Levine JCC and the Charlotte Chapter of Hadassah, and is made

possible, in part, with funding by the Arts & Science Council and the North Carolina Arts Council, an agency of the Department of

Cultural Resources, and the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art. ☆

Yours Truly Needlepoint and Knitting

Handpainted Needlepoint Canvases

All New Canvases — Free lessons
— Unique Gift Ideas —
New and Old Customers Very Welcome
Best Selection in Charlotte

All Proceeds Go to Local Charities

3802 Columbine Circle
704-366-6765

Open Thursdays
9 a.m.-5 p.m.



**Expect good for the person who lends graciously,
who conducts all business equitably;
who gives freely to the poor,
whose righteousness is enduring --
that person's dignity will be exalted and honored.**

-- Psalm 112:5, 9

GIVING CHARLOTTE SOMETHING TO SMILE ABOUT FOR OVER 25 YEARS.

NEW PATIENTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

Call today and join your friends who already experience dental care at its finest.

Drs. Tricia Rodney & Scott Menaker

General dental care for all ages • Personalized treatment • Invisalign Orthodontics Certified
Caring, compassionate, and friendly doctors and staff • CEREC single-visit crowns Certified
Tooth colored fillings • 7:00 AM appointments every day • Custom financing options

SmileCharlotte.com : Drs. Menaker & Rodney, DDS
2711 Randolph Rd., Suite 205 : 704.377.2503