

Hadassah: From the President

By Hadas Kasher, president,
Charlotte Chapter of Hadassah

Even if you are not a Hadassah member you have probably noticed how active our chapter is.

Every month we provide educating, inspiring programs. Each member is given the opportunity to learn something new, to spend time with friends or to meet new friends and at the same time help other. Can it be better than that?

Just in the last couple of months we had an amazing workshop lead

by Racelle Weinman. A group of 50 women spent Sunday morning discussing Jewish Women Leadership, later that month we had membership event that allow us to network with new and old friends, while learning about the latest Hadassah Projects. For example a project done with JNF to provide a shelter from bombs to kids in the south of Israel. The shelter is an indoor facility, approximately the size of a football field. Full with games and

sport activities that allow the kids play safely.

While you are celebrating Chanukah, we remember how the power of few can make a difference, even if the mission ahead looks impossible. Each and one of us can help make this world a better place. While I am writing this article a group of dedicated volunteers are preparing for December and January events just to name few examples.

We are planning for a gift wrap-

ping weekends at the Arboretum location of Barnes & Noble starting after Thanksgiving.

We are planning a Spa Night (December 9). You will have the chance to relax from your busy schedule, enjoy spending time with friends and raise some money for Hadassah.

We are hosting "Love & Logic" workshop lead by Wendy Petricoff (January 9) to help parents and grandparents to guide with love and logic.

I encourage you to take the time and visit www.Hadassah.org to learn more about Hadassah. You



will be amazed to learn about the contribution we are making in our own communities and all over the world. ☆

Youth Visions

Hebrew High Second Session Electives Encourage Teens to Connect to Torah

As the second session of the 5771 school year approaches, the focus of the electives at Hebrew High turns to our sacred Texts. The content of each class is designed to help modern day kids find relevance in eternal teaching found in Torah, Talmud and Midrash. Below is a preview of these exciting and challenging new classes.

*** Torah In The Twilight Zone** – Submitted for your approval ...one five year long science fiction show with value laden messages. Maybe it was just a twist, maybe it was just frightening, but maybe, just maybe the show's writers wanted you to learn a moral or ethical lesson. We'll explore specific Twilight Zone episodes that tried to teach the same values that can be found in the Torah or Talmud. Look...that signpost up ahead...next stop...Hebrew High!

*** Torah and the Big Issues-** A look at issues that teens face in their lives. Discussions will be formed by seeking guidance from the Torah and other texts. Topics of discussion will include: Are Jews the Chosen people? Are parents always right? What do the sages say about substance abuse? About eating disorders? Where is God when I need help?

*** Drama And the Tanach** - The sacrifice of Isaac as told from a psychiatrist's couch, The three angels who visit Abraham and Jerry Springer, Noah's neighbors and their reaction to all those animals...these are just a few of the improve skits we may perform as we explore the text of Genesis and add our own midrash via the art of drama, readings, and laughing.

*** Ancient Jewish Art-** The group will create Jewish art using techniques that were popular in



Beryl Abel, Ian Rogers, Josh Farhi, and Abigail Smallman talk with guest speaker Natalie Tunney of Jewish Family Services in "On the Margins."



Both the core classes and electives are places to be with friends at Hebrew High.

Ancient Israel. During our time together, we will find texts in the Tanach that inspire us and use the images to create a class tapestry. We will also explore other media such as mosaics and micrography.

Hebrew High is a great place

together in touch with Jewish spirituality and forge a personal relationship with the texts that have kept our people together for thousands of years. If you have any questions, or would like to register your 8th through 12th grade stu-

dent call Roz at 704-9446782 or email rcooper@shalomcharlotte.org.

From the staff and students of Hebrew High: Have a very Happy Chanukah! ☆

Friendship Circle Chanukah Bowl

The Friendship Circle is inviting all our families and volunteers to join us for the conclusion of our Bowling League with a grand Chanukah Bowl. Many have participated in this unique league, and it was a huge success. Special Chanukah activities and gifts will be available and refreshments will be served. As this will be the conclusion of our Bowling League program, special award certificates will be presented to our Bowling League participants. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank our dedicated teen volunteers for making this program a success and for teaching our special friends new bowling skills. This program is free of charge, thanks to Bowling League's sponsors, Edwin and Leslie Rusgo.

Join us on Monday, December



13 at 5:30 PM at Carolina Lanes in Matthews, NC. For more information contact Bentzion at 704-366-5983 or info@friendshipcircle.org.

The Friendship Circle is an organization that cultivates friendships between teen volunteers and children with special needs. The Friendship Circle is a beneficiary agency of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte. ☆

Camp Judaea Recruits Military Children

Finding a Jewish identity for anyone is hard, but for children growing up in a very small Jewish community it is even more difficult. For children growing up in a military town, it is more difficult still. Some children want to form a Jewish connection so deeply they actively seek out ways to connect.

Aaron K., lives in a small town south of Fayetteville, NC with a Jewish population of 100 families, about ten of whom have children. One day Aaron told his mother that he wanted to go to Jewish sleep-away camp, and after researching all of the different Jewish camp options, Aaron chose Camp Judaea as the place that he wanted to call home. They contacted Camp Judaea and Assistant Director Lori Goldstein came and visited with Aaron and his family.

Before Goldstein's arrival, Aaron's mother reminded him that the cost of attending a camp is very high and that she was not sure that they were going to be able to afford the program. His answer to his mother was "don't worry; I will raise the money, not just so that I can go to Camp Judaea, but so that all of my friends can go too."

Aaron and his friends all live at Fort Bragg and do not have as

many opportunities as children in larger Jewish communities. One parent of many of the families is stationed in Afghanistan.

Aaron gave up all his extracurricular activities and put on fundraisers. He sold food at event snack bars, recruiting other kids to run a car wash so all would be involved and even selling shirts that say "hope," because Aaron really hopes he and all his friends can go to camp. Aaron will soon become a Bar Mitzvah, but he has already learned to be a real mensch. To know that a person like Aaron, who is thirteen, decided to not just try and find the money for him to attend camp but for the entire Jewish community, is true hope for the future of the Jewish people.

Camp Judaea offers a magical socialization environment in which there is an opportunity that no other educational institution can offer - a captive audience that is eager to be at there and learn what there is to offer. "At Camp Judaea we teach Judaism by living Judaism," said Sandra Bass, Camp Director "we have campers that come to camp from all of the different sects of Judaism and we want everyone to feel comfortable in their Jewish skin."

Each summer over 500 campers from the South and Mid-Atlantic states participate in two-, four-, or eight-week sessions. Camp Judaea is located on 118 acres of lush, rolling terrain that offers clean air, blue skies, and tall trees in a beautiful mountain setting, nestled in the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Camp Judaea places special emphasis on Jewish heritage and a connection to Israel. Each age group has a theme-oriented program consisting of informal educational activities programmed by the staff. Camp Judaea's programs also include horseback riding, sports, a challenge course, arts and crafts, environmental education, drama, swimming, canoeing, archery, and much more. Camp Judaea is equipped with two kosher kitchens and provides an enriching Shabbat experience.

If you are interested in assisting Camp Judaea in their effort to give military children "Hope for Camp" please send checks to Camp Judaea, 2700 NE Expy, C500, Atlanta, GA 30345.

For further information, please contact Lori Goldstein at lori@campjudaea.org or 404-634-7883. Visit us at www.CampJudaea.org. ☆

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