

## Community News

# Sneak Peek at the 2011 Charlotte Jewish Film Festival

As the weather turns cold, the Charlotte Jewish Film Festival heats up. Although this year's Festival is already warming up with several free movies via the Charlotte Jewish Film Society, we will really turn up the heat in March when the Festival is in full swing.



A scene from "The Matchmaker."

In addition to nine exciting screenings, the Festival is gearing up to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Hadassah – the Festival's founding sponsor. To honor Hadassah's one hundredth year, the first Saturday of the Festival has been designated the "Hadassah Centennial Celebration." The festivities will commence at 7:30 PM on March 5, at Ballantyne Village Stadium 5. The evening kicks off with one of the most talked about films of the year, *The Matchmaker* (*Pa'am Hayiti*), and will be followed by a dessert reception.

*The Matchmaker*, set in 1968, is a tender tale about Arik, a teenage boy growing up in Haifa. In his search for summer work, he meets Yankele Bride, a matchmaker and Holocaust survivor. Although Arik aspires to be a war hero, he settles with being Yankele's investigator, scouting prospects. In his search to find potential suitors, Arik finds his own match in the beautiful Tamara. The daughter of an affluent Iraqi family, Tamara grew up in the United States and seduces Arik with notions of free love, rock-n-roll and the women's liberation movement. The drama examines the dynamic love story between Arik and Tamara, as well as the search for love of the many other interesting characters we meet along the way.

From acclaimed Israeli director Avi Neshet, *The Matchmaker* is about the journey from youth to adulthood. Neshet comments that

the film is not about the Holocaust but "is mainly a coming-of-age movie, about a kid growing up. He learns about the Holocaust while at the same time finding out about the nature of love." *The Matchmaker* won two 2010 Ophir Awards – Israel's equivalent of an Academy Award – for best actress and best actor, and is a poignant study of the balance between romance, loss and the exploration of adolescence.

As in the past, the festival is pleased to offer at least one film to our viewers free of charge. On Thursday, March 3, at 7 PM in the Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts, *An Article of Hope* will be the opening film of the 7th Annual Charlotte Jewish Film Festival, and admission will be free. This film is the unique and inspirational story of Israel's first astronaut, Ilan Ramon, and the artifact he chooses to take with him on the historic journey of the Space Shuttle Columbia. Col. Ramon takes a tiny Torah that had been safeguarded by a young boy in Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. "This is a film that will fill your heart with pride," says the Festival's Film Curator Debby Block. "We are also proud to be bringing this film to Charlotte during NASA's 50th anniversary year."

Another highlight of the festival will be one of our sports flicks,

*Jews and Baseball: An American Love Story*. The film, sponsored by Temple Israel and its Men's Club on Sunday, March 6, at 7 PM at Temple Israel, is narrated by Dustin Hoffman and documents the contributions of Jewish-Americans on the baseball field. The documentary transcends the sport of baseball, examining the underlying themes of immigration, assimilation, bigotry and tradition.

*Jews and Baseball* is woven together by rare archival footage and photos as well as an eclectic musical score. The film features exclusive interviews with players including Ron Blomberg, Al Rosen, Yogi Berra and Hall-of-Fame pitcher Sandy Koufax. The film will come to life as Temple Israel Men's Club hosts former Major Leaguer and one of the film's stars, Ron Blomberg, as the evening's guest speaker. Make sure to take your family out to this ballgame.

Ready to buy your tickets, but don't know where to start? Pick up a copy of the February *Charlotte Jewish News* for a trifold with this year's full lineup. In early February, visit our website, [www.charlottejewishfilm.com](http://www.charlottejewishfilm.com), to purchase tickets and learn more about the other wonderful films included in the 7th Annual Charlotte Jewish Film Festival.

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. ☆



## Charlotte Jewish Preschool Partnerships

(Continued from page 15)

see are: Birthday Book Club Chair, Lori Fishman; Book Fair Chairs, Jen Kiel and Caren Hill; Challah Chair, Andie Taylor; Citipass Fundraiser Chair, Marsi Schwartz; Parent Open House Chair, Debby Weiss; Pizza Friday Chair, Amy Tyndall; Purim Volunteer Chair – Jennifer Holland; Silent Auction Event Planning Chairs, Barbara Shraga and Glenda Bernhardt; Silent Auction Sponsorship Chair, Lisa Blau; Social Committee (kids) Chairs, Shilpa Thakur and Dori Whitman; Social Committee (adults) Chair, Jen Kiel; Teacher Appreciation Chairs, Leslie Black and Jennifer Collman; Yearbook Ads Chair, Caren Hill; Yearbook Layout Chair, Beth Balaban.

The leadership represented in the above list is supported by an additional 174 families all in pursuit of the same goal; to provide students with a foundation in the Jewish faith within a safe, nurturing, educational environment. By design, parents of Charlotte Jewish Preschool students experience an open-door environment that revolves around a "whole child/whole family" approach to educational, personal and family growth.

The Charlotte Jewish Preschool welcomes you to join our partnership at our Open House on Friday, January 14 at 9:30 AM. At the Open House, you will discover the beauty of our CJP family, the quality of our teachers, magnificent

facilities and a secular and Jewish education that connects preschoolers to the community and prepares them for the future.

For more information about attending our Open House or enrolling your child in the current year, please contact Alyson Kalik, CJP registrar, at 704-944-6866 or [akalik@shalomcharlotte.org](mailto:akalik@shalomcharlotte.org). ☆



Charlotte Jewish Preschool  
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## ISN'T IT TIME FOR A CONVERSATION ABOUT YOUR ESTATE?

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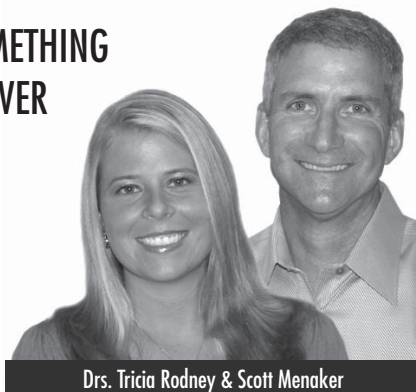
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To learn more please contact Phil Warshauer, Executive Director of the Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community at 704-973-4544 or [pwarshauer@charlottejewishfoundation.org](mailto:pwarshauer@charlottejewishfoundation.org)



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