

Mazel Tov & Congratulations

Swimmer Insurance Company was recognized by *Rough Notes* as Marketing Agency of the Month. The magazine published a four-page story on the local agency, highlighting their longevity, customer service, and commitment to the community. The full story can be found at www.roughnotes.com.



Craig Katzman and David Swimmer of Swimmer Insurance Company. Photo by Lynn Donaldson.



Dylan Heaney and Ali Kavaddo

ENGAGEMENT

Mr. and Mrs. Gene Kavaddo are happy to announce the engagement of their daughter, Ilana, to Mr. Dylan Heaney, son of Mr. Charles Heaney of Seattle, and Linda Heaney of Seattle. Ilana is an honors graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is employed by the Ad Council in Manhattan. Dylan is a graduate of the Berklee School of Music, Magna cum Laude, and is jazz saxophonist with his ensemble, The East West Quintet. Additionally, he freelances in New York and has a teaching studio. The wedding is planned for June 11 at the Orchard House in Concord, North Carolina.

Mark Bernstein to be Honored for Legacy of Service

Mark Bernstein will be recognized and honored for his work as Co-Chair of the Blue Ribbon Committee responsible for developing the most recent Cultural Facilities Master Plan at the Spirit Awards on Monday, January 31, beginning at 6:30 PM at the Mint Museum Uptown, located at Levine Center for the Arts, along with his co-chair and former ASC Board member, Dorlisa Flur. The Spirit Awards are sponsored by The Greater Charlotte Cultural Trust and Donald Haack Diamonds and Fine Gems.

The Cultural Facilities Master Plan was a 25-year vision for cultural facility development across Mecklenburg County developed in partnership with the Foundation For The Carolinas and Charlotte Center City Partners. Cultural planning is a process which identifies the arts and cultural needs and preferences of residents, examines existing resources and opportunities for arts and cultural development, and proposes strategies to meet its citizens' needs for arts and cultural experiences. The Blue Ribbon Committee involved hundreds of citizens who provided valuable input regarding the future facility needs in Mecklenburg County and took more than three years to complete.

Mark Bernstein was instrumental in convening Charlotte's most important community stakeholders to ensure the plan had broad support. In January 2004, ASC adopted the final report of the Cultural Facilities Master Plan Blue Ribbon Committee. This particular plan included many of the facilities that are now part of the Levine Center for the Arts on

South Tryon Street, including the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African American Arts + Culture, Knight Theatre, Mint Museum Uptown and Bechtler Museum of Modern Art. Mark Bernstein is also widely credited with recognizing the opportunity to bring the Bechtler Museum to uptown Charlotte as well as for his partnership with John Lassiter to assemble to necessary support from the City and County.

Other award recipients include Dorlisa Flur, co-chair of the Blue Ribbon Committee; John Lassiter for his extraordinary work behind the scenes with the city, county elected officials and the N.C. State Legislature to prepare the political landscape for Levine Center for the Arts; Carol Jennings, executive assistant to Charlotte City Manger, Ron Kimble and Earl Leake, former board chair for the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African American Arts + Culture, and Davis Steel. ✧

**Spirit Awards
Honoring
Mark
Bernstein
Monday,
January 31
6:30 PM
Mint Museum
uptown**

REEL World: Jewish People in China

The Charlotte Jewish Film Society is proud to bring you the last in our series of films about the Jewish experience around the world. On January 23 at 5 PM, we will be screening the feature length documentary *Shanghai Ghetto*. Winner of the Audience Choice Award at the Santa Barbara International Film Festival, this film tells the little known story of the German Jews who were trying to escape Nazi persecution, but country after country closed its doors to them. The only place in the world that did not require entrance visas was the international city of Shanghai. Filmmakers Dana Janklowicz-Mann and Amir Mann help us to understand the little known story of the Jewish refugees, their relationships with the local Chinese and with the occupying Japanese army, as well as the rich cultural life that the Jewish immigrants

constructed in this Far East city.

The film is narrated by Academy Award Winner Martin Landau. Music is by composer Sujin Nam recorded with the famous Chinese Erhu performer Karen Han who played in *Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon* and *The Last Emperor*.

Sponsoring organizations of this film series - The Charlotte Jewish Film Festival and the Levine Sklut Judaic Library and Resource Center - would like to thank its audiences for their support and enthusiasm for this film series.

Film: *Shanghai Ghetto*
Date: Sunday, January 23
Time: 5 PM
Place: Sam Lerner Center for



A scene from "Shanghai Ghetto."

Cultural Arts

Cost: \$4 at door, no reservations necessary

For more information: Debby Block, 704-944-6763. ✧



The Ego Soars or How Oasis Created a Monster

By H. Hedgepeth

I tend to go with the flow of activities offered by Oasis. After all, I'm here, a captive audience with no pressing engagements so why not try something new. First there was pottery, something totally unappealing to me given the mere thought of having that gooky clay under my nails. I turned into Mikey of the famed television commercials where the older kids have him sample questionable foods. Mikey, as circumstances revealed, liked everything and so did I when it came to pottery. I'd never ventured into any artistic arena but soon found myself creating tea pots, bowls and the assigned class project for the day. Within months, I was doing my own thing of creating bowls and vases of my own design, all glazed in white to match the brightness of my home. All are on display and I consistently take a modest moment to announce to new visitors that these are my artistic creations.

Next came art. I'd never drawn or painted a picture in my life. Again, I'm a captive audience without pressing engagements, so why not give this a try. Fran, our first instructor was amazing and

when I completed a painting of a house with windows, curtains, trees, shrubbery and a woman standing on the porch, I said to myself, "this does not look too shabby." Ralph, the current instructor, followed Fran and is similarly encouraging. An abstract painting, a garden with a bird in a bird bath and a barn with flowers followed. Each piece was taken home and stashed in a corner until an artist friend saw them and said "these are really good." I knew I had hit my stride with my painting of an African mask. It so impressed me until I had it professionally framed. My next painting of a washer woman lead me and my soaring ego to declare myself an "artist." When I collected this work from the frame shop, the woman who unveiled the wrapping not only oohed and awed, but gave me the address of her family gallery in South Carolina. She said "you're really good! You can sell your paintings." Not only had I exceeded my own expectations with this brilliant work, but experienced my



The author and artist with one of her creations.

fifteen seconds of fame before this appreciative audience of one.

The challenge of the next project is a visual work in progress. I want to do something for my grandchildren depicting our history from Africa to slavery to freedom. If I can put my vision to canvas, your people will have to call my people to get an audience for I will be among legends of greatness in the world of art and far too possessed with self importance to take calls from mere mortals. Wonder if I'll experience a fear of heights when they hoist me up on the scaffolding to redo the Sistine Chapel. ✧

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