

The Support is Going, Going... and Going

By Annie Lord, PTO President

A few months ago I went to the Black Political Conference with my husband, Harrison. There were a few couples there from a local church who weren't there for the politics (I caught them snoozing during the speeches). They were there to support their reverend, who was being honored as volunteer of the year. I looked around at their tight-knit community, and wished that I could be a part of it. A few months of auction planning later, I realize that I have that, too. It's a very different community (for one thing, our hats aren't nearly as nice), but the love and support are the same. That's something to treasure.

I've had plenty of opportunity to treasure our community for the past several months, as I've been elbow deep in planning The Charlotte Jewish Preschool's annual silent auction, our biggest fundraiser and social event of the year. The process has been a heartwarming experience. I have to admit, I didn't expect it to be heartwarming. Stressful, maybe. Time consuming, definitely. But heartwarming? That surprised me. The amazing people I've met and become friends with, along with the companies and individuals that support our school, all make the intensive planning worthwhile.

I've always known that CJP is filled with caring, energetic, and creative parents. I found one of my closest friends in Charlotte while

helping with the silent auction my first year at CJP. This year, it's been wonderful working with all of our volunteers, getting to know them, and becoming friends with them. Our school has worked hard this year towards a greener campus, and our two stellar event planning volunteers have tied the theme into the auction night beautifully: it's a Green Garden Party. CJP parents and alumni truly rise to the occasion. What's more, the event hasn't even happened yet — there are so many more volunteers to work with.

Our community support extends far beyond our school, and even beyond Shalom Park. I thought asking for donations would be difficult. Instead, it has been incredibly gratifying to see how companies and individuals throughout the nation are willing to support our school. From the school's Board of Directors, who have brought in some amazing items and sponsorships, to national companies that know little to nothing about our school, to my friend's uncle in Miami, who is a cash sponsor of our auction (that last one actually brought tears to my eyes): the outpouring of support from Shalom Park, the Charlotte Jewish and non-Jewish community, and even national firms, has been remarkable to watch. If you are interested, it is not too late to make donations, don't hesitate to contact me at AnnieHLord@gmail.com.

I invite everyone to come spend the evening with this amazing community. See what we've done, and learn more about why we're doing it. Share our love and support, and lend us some of yours in return.

Come join our special community at the Charlotte Jewish Preschool to Learn. Grow. Connect. February 19, 7 PM, Sam Lerner Center. \$30/person or \$50/couple. CJP offers a quality half day or full day preschool education environment for children one to five years old. Enrollment

is available for the current and 2011/2012 school year. For enrollment information, please contact Alyson Kalik, CJP administrator, at 704-944-6866 or aklaik@shalom-charlotte.org. ☆



horrah!

(bar or bat, let's do this thing right)



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