

## Community News

# Hadassah Organizes a Community-Wide Effort to Help Rebuild Carmel Forest on February 6

You may have heard by now that on December 6, the deadliest forest fire in Israel's history broke out on the Carmel Mountain range near Haifa.

Forty-three people perished in the deadly fires including Israeli's highest ranking female police chief and thousands of people had been evacuated.

Carmel Forest, a national treasure, was destroyed by the wildfire which burned more than five million trees across 12,500 acres of natural woodlands and planted forests in an area comparable to over 7,100 football fields. Sadly hundreds of buildings including an orphanage and a kibbutz were also destroyed.

### Supporting Operation Carmel Renewal Campaign

The Charlotte Chapter of Hadassah in partnership with the Jewish National Fund (JNF) and the help of our friends at Temple Beth El, Temple Israel, Charlotte Jewish Day School, the Sandra and Leon Levine Jewish Community Center, Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte and other community organizations, are organizing a community-wide initiative to raise funds for JNF's Operation Carmel Renewal. This effort has been created to repair the vast ecological damage caused by the fires, replace depleted fire fighting supplies, provide

firefighters with much-needed equipment to battle future fires, and restore green space to area kibbutzim, moshavim, and youth villages.

"We at Hadassah continue to act upon our 100 years' legacy by proudly organizing a community-wide effort to raise much needed funds to renew the devastated forest," commented Hadas Kasher, President, Charlotte Chapter of Hadassah.

The Charlotte community will come together on Sunday, February 6 at a number of community events to hear a first hand account of the Carmel forest fire and its aftermath from Aviram Zuk, an Israeli forest ranger. Aviram's visit is an opportunity for the broader Charlotte community to invest in the greening of the land of Israel.

### Help Us Make the Forest Green Again

Leading up to the events, paper leaves, symbolic of the reforestation efforts, will be sold (\$10, \$20 or \$50) to raise funds at several locations around Shalom Park (front desk, schools office, etc). The leaves will be added to a tree-trunk and displayed throughout the month. We are calling community members to donate leaves to

the campaign and display them on a tree. The decorated trees will be presented to the Israeli forest



Firefighters worked round the clock to fight the Carmel Forest fire.

ranger as part of the community event on February 6 from 12 noon-2 PM.

"Many of us spent our childhoods raising money to plant trees in Israel," Rabbi Schindler commented. "The trees destroyed this past December were those that we, our parents, and our grandparents planted. We have an obligation to plant once again."

### Attend Special Events Sunday, February 6

We are honored that we will be able to hear first hand from someone familiar with what happened in the front lines of the fire.

Aviram Zuk, an Israeli forest ranger will visit Charlotte's

Shalom Park on Super Bowl Sunday. A series of appearances are planned including a visit to the religious school at Temple Beth El to speak to students and parents.

He will also speak at a special program at Luski Hall (Shalom Park - Bernstein Building) at 12 noon, where community members of all ages are invited to hear Aviram's story and show their concern and encouragement. Please show your support by attending this important event and don't worry about being late for the big game because the program will be over by 2 PM - several hours before kick-off. During the event a kosher fare will be available for purchase from Rabbi Vorst.

To donate additional funds to

the Operation Carmel Renewal, please contact Beverly Grey at [jesdrew@aol.com](mailto:jesdrew@aol.com) or 704-846-8049 or send your check payable to Hadassah to Beverly Grey, 8827 Alpine Circle, Charlotte, 28270.

### Community Organizations/Business Wanted

If you are representative of an organization or business who would like to take part in this campaign, please contact [info@charlottehadassah.org](mailto:info@charlottehadassah.org). ✪



## SAVE THE DATE

Charlotte Yiddish Institute  
August 18 - 21, 2011  
Wildacres Retreat,  
Little Switzerland, NC

**JEWISH  
FEDERATION**  
OF GREATER CHARLOTTE

[www.jewishcharlotte.org](http://www.jewishcharlotte.org)

Being Jewish is Kiddush and Knish.

It's enjoying time with our family and loved ones, spreading the rich traditions of living an engaged and sometimes challenging life. Sharing a good wish at Kiddush, and sitting down to a holiday meal with one another. Knowing that each of us can and do make a difference, even in the simple act of smiling and saying "have a good day," or in the small mitzvah of picking up a piece of trash. Individually and as a group, we can all do our part to improve our community. To me, donating time and money to our Jewish Federation is a way to help many, one at a time.

KEVIN LEVINE



It's what being  
**Jewish**  
feels like

PRIDE  
CONNECTION  
IDENTITY

Members of the  
Charlotte community  
share their thoughts  
and feelings.

Every day of the year, the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte works with hundreds of local, national and international agencies to transform lives and deliver hope, dignity and comfort to millions of Jews here at home, in Israel and around the world. Please consider a gift to our 2011 Annual Campaign, and know that you're making a difference in so many lives.

**It's what being Jewish feels like.**