

WOMEN'S NEWS

Charlotte Shows Israel That We Care

By Hadas Kasher, president, Charlotte Chapter of Hadassah

While we were celebrating Hanukkah, northern Israel was in flames — but not from Hanukkah candles. Sadly, it was from a deadly forest fire.

Young Israeli men were killed, the highest ranking female Israeli Police Chief died from her burns, thousands of acres of trees were turned into ruins, and many lost their homes. The fires of the Carmel devastated Israel.

Now is time for action — our action. Now that the immediate crisis has passed, it is time to help with the recovery effort. Now, we need to make sure that Israel has the equipment and training to fight future fires.

Our Charlotte community has come together under Hadassah's leadership to create a one of a kind campaign. We showed our support for Israel through our Tree Campaign. The Charlotte Chapter of Hadassah built trees — trees of wood — and asked the community to provide the leaves — leaves of money. Each leaf represents a donation — from preschool kids to their older brothers and sisters their parents and grandparents — hundreds of donations.

On Sunday February 6, Hadassah hosted a JNF Firefighter



Hadas Kasher

from Israel for an event open to all. Many came to hear his message, to meet him, and to show him our support. There was standing room only in Luski Hall, with over 120 people wanting to be a part of the recovery.

We were the best of Charlotte — working together as a team.

Temple Beth El, Temple Israel and their religious schools; Charlotte Jewish Day School; the Sandra and Leon Levine Jewish Community Center; the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte and Charlotte Jewish Preschool created a coalition to sponsor this program — an amazing gift to the Jewish community of Charlotte. With focus, commitment, caring and teamwork, we made a difference. Each part of the Jewish community made a unique contribution, as we all worked together.

Thank you all for your support of Israel. I am proud to be a mem-



The "tree" full of "leaves" that represent donatinos made to replant the Carmel Forest.

ber of the Charlotte Jewish community. I am proud to be Hadassah.

If you were unable to meet the Firefighter, and if you were unable to buy a leaf, you can still make a donation. Please contact Beverly Grey at jesdrew@aol.com or call 704-846-8049 or send your check payable to Hadassah to: Beverly Grey, 8827 Alpine Circle, Charlotte, 28270. ☆

See a "Thank You" from the Jewish National Fund on page 24.



Youth Visions

8th Grade "Divine Spark" Retreat

We are all created in the Image of HaShem



Hebrew High's 8th Grade Retreat, "Divine Spark," focused on an issue that most of us have faced at one time or another in our lives ... bullying.

We are all created in God's image, no matter what color our hair is, what body type we have, or how good we are in sports or in the arts. Our students were exposed to many situations involving bullying and learned that bullying has many faces ... the bully, the target of the bully and the bystander who watches but does not step in to help. Through role playing, panel discussions from experts, and focus groups, we learned that bullying, at any level, is unacceptable.

horrah!

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



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