

## From Memory to Zikaron

By Mor Greene, Community Shlichah

*We do not have Unknown Soldiers* by Yehuda Amichai  
We do not have Unknown Soldiers.

We do not have the Unknown Soldier tomb  
Whoever likes to rest his wreath  
Should break apart his wreath  
To many flowers and divide them  
To leaves and disperse them.  
And all the dead return home  
And they all have names.

Understanding and interpretations of the past have shaped Jewish identity and collective memory throughout the ages. Jews are known as history-centered people representing a unique fusion of history, memory and peoplehood.

Yom Hazikaron is a day in Israel dedicated to the memory of family and friends who lost their lives defending their homeland. "Zakhor" (remember) appears multiple times in the Hebrew Bible, but the Israelite nation is also instructed there not to forget.

With the reality in Israel of 18 year olds joining the army to defend the state of Israel, everybody knows how it feels to lose a loved one during the wars of Israel. Shahar, my neighbor, was my first soldier. I was almost 12 when Shahar was killed by enemy fire during a battle in south of Lebanon. He was only 21. Eight and a half years ago I became part of the "grieving families" community in Israel. My father's brother served in the Israeli navy in the "flotilla unit." His units used to train for battle in what was later discovered to be a polluted stream. As a result, he was diagnosed with cancer. He left behind a wife and two children. As the years past other names were added to my list. I realized that this is the reality in my beloved country. This is the way we are fighting our right as the Jewish people to live in the Jewish state.

On May 10 we will be celebrating Israel's 63rd Independence Day, only two days after Israel's Memorial Day. It is difficult to explain to others why the happiest day of the nation follows the saddest day of the year. The thing is that

Israel is a country where happiness comes with tears.

This year in Charlotte we started a special project connecting Hebrew High 9th graders and Yad Labanim in Hadera, our sister city in Israel. Yad Labanim is a museum in memory of the local residents who have fallen in Israel's wars. During the session the students and their families were connected to families in Hadera that have lost loved ones during the wars of Israel. The connection was made in order to forge a personal connection between the youth in Charlotte and Israel's Memorial Day. Exposure to this harsh reality will be the bridge to bring Israel to the youth in the community. The teenagers will take a significant part in the Yom Hazikaron ceremony this year, talking about their experience and about their soldiers.

Please come on May 8 to Israel's Memorial Day Ceremony to show your support and join us for the celebration of Israel's Independence Day on May 10. ☆

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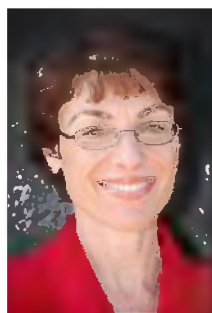
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## SYNAGOGUES & CONGREGATIONS

### Make Your Own Edible Fruit Arrangements

Another Jewish Women's Circle event at Chabad of Ballantyne is coming up. This time, in preparation for the holiday of Shavuot. One of the special customs of Shavuot is to decorate the synagogue with an abundance of flowers to commemorate the flowers that made Mount Sinai a beautiful place to receive the Torah.

Learn how to make your own gorgeous flower shaped fruit arrangements, enjoy a buffet of delicious dairy sweets, discuss how the Torah's teachings shapes our lives, and spend an enjoyable evening out with other Jewish

women.

Tuesday, May 17 7:30 PM, 11408 Snapfinger Dr.; cost: \$15 per person.

For more info or to RSVP contact Leah Levin at Leah@JewishBallantyne.com or 704-246-8881 or visit our website www.JewishBallantyne.com.

The Jewish Women's Circle is a night out just for you. Relax, socialize and meet new friends while exploring the practical and mystical aspects of our heritage. Through innovative workshops and creative activities, we will explore contemporary Jewish issues, and discuss subjects related



to our tradition. Come together in this warm and inviting setting to share and celebrate our Jewish experience. ☆



Grinding, mixing, rolling, and baking - this is what all the bakers were doing at Chabad of Ballantyne. What were they so busy with? Making matzah at the Model Matzah Bakery of course. Not just any matzah, each child made their own matzah from scratch, starting from separating the wheat kernels, grinding them, mixing the flour and the water and rolling out

the dough. To add to the excitement they traveled back in time to experience the story of Pesach and the reasons that we eat matzah. So much fun! For information on upcoming events for children or our Hebrew School in Ballantyne, please visit our website www.JewishBallantyne.com.

**Over 40 Children Baked Matzah in Ballantyne**