

## A New Start

By Elka Bernstein

*Make new Friends, but keep the old.*

*One is silver and the other is Gold....*

is a song my children learned at the end of each year at the Charlotte Jewish Preschool.

The start of the school year is filled with excitement when students receive their class assignments, families reconnect with old friends and new friendships are created. After a summer of relaxing, the staff also looks forward to returning to work where they reconnect with co-workers and welcome new staff to the school.

When CJP reopens our doors for the 2011/2012 school year, we will say goodbye to some wonderful staff and welcome new staff.

**Robbie McGinley**

After twenty-three dedicated years, Miss Robbie retired at the end of the 2010/2011 school year. As a four-year-old teacher, Miss Robbie was a role-model to staff

and families with her dedication to excellence in education. She has followed her families through births, b'nei mitzvot, high school and college graduations. In her tenure at CJP, Miss Robbie touched the lives of over 200 families.

**Tootie Broome**

Tootie has been a highly regarded and dedicated member of the Shalom Park family for 19 years. Tootie began her career on Shalom Park in 1993 with our youngest students. In 2008, Miss Tootie was promoted to Assistant Director. Miss Tootie was a touchstone for many families with her wisdom and experience.

I know that you join me in expressing our gratitude to Robbie and Tootie for all of their outstanding contributions and efforts on behalf of the Charlotte Jewish Preschool. We will be forever indebted to them for taking us so far in our journey to provide a wonderful and nurturing experience for all of our children.

As we say goodbye to Miss

Robbie and Miss Tootie, we welcome:

**Brooke Amo**

Brooke Amo has joined the Charlotte Jewish Preschool staff as Assistant Director. Brooke joins our organization with over eight years of teaching experience, most recently as a First Grade Teacher within the Charlotte Mecklenburg School system. Additionally, Brooke has been part of the International Baccalaureate Leadership Team where she participated in the development and curriculum of various statewide magnet programs. Brooke has also held a number of administrative positions including Lead Inclusion Teacher as well as Grade Level Chair and was responsible for the creation of strategies and initiatives designed and executed to ensure the success of every child. Brooke has been recognized for her outstanding contributions having been selected as Teacher of the Year for the 2009- 2010 academic school year. Brooke's background is further enhanced by her having

both her undergraduate and graduate degrees in Elementary Education.

**Marni Black**

Miss Marni will join the Charlotte Jewish Preschool as part of the three teaching team. Miss Marni began her preschool teaching career in 2003 at Temple Beth Shalom in Las Vegas. We are excited to have Miss Marni bring her education and experience to the families at the preschool.

**Learn. Grow. Connect.** With our staff and families at the Charlotte Jewish Preschool. For further information on how to



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enroll your child into our wonderful world of learning, please contact Alyson Kalik at 704-944-6776 or [akalik@shalomcharlotte.org](mailto:akalik@shalomcharlotte.org).

## JPS Superheroes Summer Camp



Some of the Mitzvah Menches enjoying GroovShooz with Ms. Lo

Three weeks packed with crafts, games, water, play, snacks, Judaica, music and groovshooz, this was what JPS Summer camp was all about. Some of the highlights were: Getting reacquainted and dressing like super heroes. GroovShooz with Ms. Lo helped keep us super fit, and water play was a great way to cool down after a hot

week. Music with Ms. Patty is always a treat and of course Shabbat Send off was fabulous as usual. We celebrated the Torah in honor of Shavuot, hugged it, sang about it, and saw a real Torah. Baking super-healthy whole wheat challah and talking about being Jewish superheros by doing Mitzvot rounded off the camp experience. ✪

## A New Director at JPS

The Jewish Preschool on Sardis is excited to announce Dedee Goldsmith as the new director of the preschool. Dedee has extensive experience in early childhood education. She comes to us from Chicago and has lived in Charlotte for two years with her husband Adam and two children, ages nine and eleven. There she taught preschool at a University lab early childhood center and taught courses in early childhood at Oakton Community College. While in Charlotte Dedee has continued to teach those courses online.

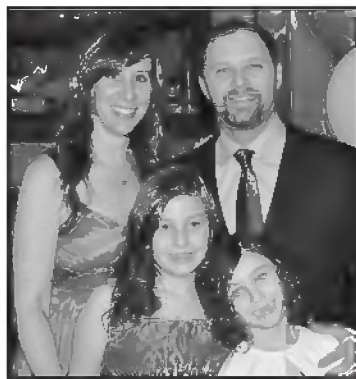
Dedee has a BA in Child Development and Elementary Education and a Masters in Teacher Leadership with an endorsement in Special Education.

She was co-founder of Choices for Children, a consultant group of Early Childhood Professionals where she consulted and advised professionals in the field.

She was also co-founder of K-PACT (Kids and Parents Affecting Communities Together), a parent/child volunteer organization founded on the principle that we can "be the change we wish to see in the world."

Dedee assumes her new position as Jen Lahn the preschool's previous director has expanded her career in adult education and programming at the Levine JCC. The Jewish Preschool on Sardis is rated as a five star preschool by the State of North Carolina and is open to all Jewish children.

Dedee exudes warmth and



Dedee Goldsmith and her family.

enthusiasm and has a broad and deep understanding of the needs of young children. We know that she will be a wonderful support and guide for the teachers, parents and the children in particular.

Dedee is very enthused about her new position and says: "My professional values and the mission of the Jewish Preschool on Sardis share similar views and goals and I know together we will continue to foster a love of learning in a safe environment, where all children and families can play, share and grow together. Please know that my door (and phone and e-mail) is open and I look forward to getting to know each and every one of our preschool families. ✪



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