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## Hebrew Cemetery Association

By Lorrie Klemons, publicity  
Annual Memorial Service  
October 2 - 10:30 AM  
1801 Statesville Avenue  
Rain or Shine

At the closing of the Yom Kippur Ne'ilah service each year, the Book of Life is sealed for yet another year. How many of us will be inscribed for another year of life? On what does God base that

inscription?

We Jews believe that our God is a merciful and forgiving God. We also know - many of us through first-hand experience - that being a good person and having a good *neshamah* (soul) does not necessarily guarantee another year of life. In fact, we know that bad things happen to good people. If being a good person and following in the image of God by praying, performing mitzvot, and studying Torah does not guarantee us life year after year, then why the need for such prayer and supplication and self-deprivation (fasting) on Yom Kippur?

The most learned rabbis cannot answer the question: Why bad things happen to good people? We can ask the rabbis and God, Himself, all the questions we want - and in Judaism we are required to ask those questions; however, for some questions there are just no sufficient answers. Judaism teaches us that prayer, the performance of mitzvot, and the study of Torah are the most important things a Jew can do. In performing mitzvot, we become almost God-like. The mystics tell us that when God created the universe, He had a huge container to put all of the holiness into. But there was so much holiness that the container broke into a thousand pieces. It became our task as newly created men and women of the world to go around and retrieve God's holiness.

During the High Holidays, when we gather in prayer as one universal Jewish community, God smiles down on us for the holiness we portray. We gather in prayer. We gather in song. We gather in ritual. We gather in love. We gather as one loud chaotic crowd and yet periodically we hush quietly to hear God's small voice. That small voice... which looms in the

chasms of our consciousness and subconsciousness. That small voice... which gives direction and meaningfulness to our lives. That small voice... which creates the faith that guides us to do God's work here on earth.



Hebrew  
Cemetery  
Association

So yes, while bad things do happen to good people, holiness remains the essence of life. And though living a holy life may not guarantee your being inscribed in the Book of Life from one year to another, it sure does make you a great and righteous person... and a person who will be memorialized by others for the holiness and goodness that made you so special.

We are living in times of unprecedented economic volatility. Unemployment rates soar. Jobs are hard to keep. Homes are being foreclosed. Money is tight. For many of our friends and neighbors, the present is gloomy and dark and their prospect for the future is scary and uncertain. Now more than ever, the Hebrew Cemetery Association needs your support. Your tax deductible annual dues of \$72 will help maintain a dignified and sanctified resting place for all those who precede you in eternal life and will guarantee the same for you and your loved ones when that unthinkable event occurs.

If you would like to make a donation to memorialize a loved one at this time of the year, send your check payable to the Hebrew Cemetery to 5007 Providence Rd., Charlotte, NC 28226. For more information about membership benefits, graves, prepaid funeral costs, endowments, and/or including the cemetery in your estate planning, contact cemetery Director, Sandra Goldman at 704-576-1859 or 704-944-6854 or [director@hebrewcemetery.org](mailto:director@hebrewcemetery.org).

(Continued on following page)

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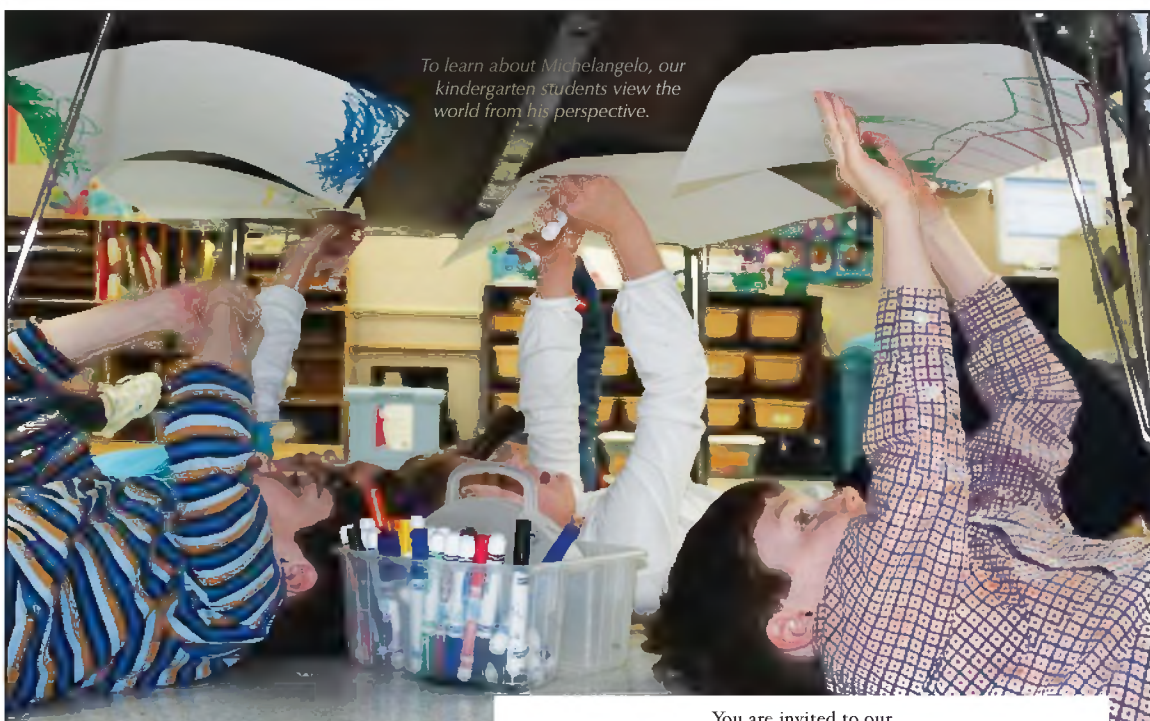
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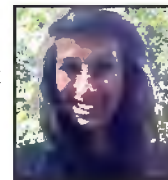
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## Teaching a Lesson in Bullying at the Freedom School

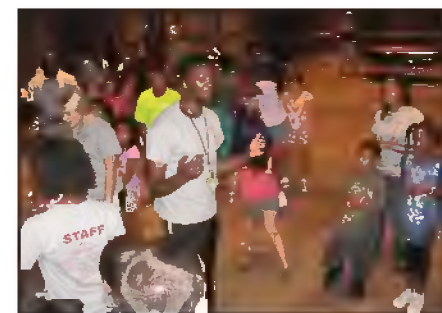
By Jenna Comisar

John Halligan came to my school to talk about his son's suicide because he was constantly bullied. His speech really inspired me. One thing he said was that at a young age (around 4th and 5th grade), kids begin to struggle with identity and that is when self-confidence is really necessary. He said that in 5th grade, kids started being very disrespectful to his son, who at that time had a very low self-esteem, and I thought about how I can change this "bullying" and "disrespecting" that goes on in a child's life. I came to the conclusion that learning about respect, and how important it is to respect others and yourself, should be taught at a young age, so I started to talk to the 4th and 5th graders at my school about respect. I wanted to make it known to the



Jenna Comisar

kids that respect is extremely important, and it is important that they not only respect one another, but also themselves. I revisited the students for a follow up at the end of the year, and then came to speak to the Freedom School [during their morning Harambee]. I really hope they got a lot out of the presentation because respect is such an important virtue they will need for the rest of their lives. ✪



The students of Freedom School at their daily Harambee.