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Ada Shapiro Jeffrey Shapiro

Wet Weather Doesn't Dampen Team Charlottes' Spirits at the 2011 JCC Maccabi Games

Despite three days of rainy weather, the 23 athletes and five credentialed adults of the Charlotte delegation had a great time at the 29th edition of the JCC Maccabi Games in the birthplace of the USA - Philadelphia, PA on August 14-19. Philly was one of two domestic host cities to welcome JCC Maccabi Games athletes this year with 1,500 total athletes participating, representing 45 delegations from throughout the world.

Girls 16U mixed team faced very strong competition throughout their tournament and despite their best efforts, finished without any victories. They did lose a heart-breaker of a game by one point to Denver in overtime. The Girls 16U mixed soccer team finished 1-4, defeating the San Diego/Richmond mixed team, and losing to Orange County, Philly and eventual Gold medal winning Toronto twice.



Sam Ditesheim, Jonathan Greenfield, Jordan Van Glish, Brian Handelsman, Alex Comisar.

The individual sport athletes had considerable success at these JCC Maccabi Games. In Girls 14U swimming, Mara Bhalla, a 13-year-old from Belmont, NC had an incredible meet, winning 12 medals (8 gold and 4 silver); while Taylor Phillips set a "personal best" in 4 of the 8 events she swam in. In tennis, Alex Comisar won a bronze medal in the boys 14U competitive singles division and a gold medal in the boys 14U doubles division, while Jordan Van Glish won a silver medal and Brian Handelsman won the bronze in the boys 14U recreational division.



Taylor Phillips and Mara Bhalla

Charlotte's delegation consisted of a Boys 16U basketball team, a Girls 16U mixed basketball team (with Orange County, CA), a girls 16U 7 v. 7 mixed soccer team (with Suffolk, Long Island), as well as five tennis players and two swimmers competing in individual sports competitions.

The Charlotte Boys 16U basketball team finished 2-3 with victories over Richmond, VA and The Samuel Field JCC (New York) and losses to eventual Gold (Los Angeles), Silver (Sid Jacobson NY) & Bronze (Philly) teams. The

Cohen, Alex Comisar, Ross Corday, Sam Ditesheim, Jonathan Greenfield, Rachel Hall, Brian Handelsman, Robert Jessell, Sarah Klein, Caroline Levine, Ethan Levine, Evan Levine, Jordan Phillips, Taylor Phillips, Marisa Ransenberg, Talia Stier, Jenny Swerdlow, Marisa Uri, Jordan Van Glish, and Daniel Willenzik.

Next year's JCC Maccabi Games will be held in Houston, TX from August 5-10. The Games are for Jewish teens ages 13-16, all ages determined as of midnight, July 31, 2012. As always with the JCC Maccabi Games allotments, priority registration is first given to current LJCC members.

For further information about the JCC Maccabi Games, contact Levine JCC Assistant Executive Director Barry Schumer at 704-944-6744. ☆

The first informational meeting for newcomer families for 2012 will be on Sunday, October 16 at 5:30 PM at the LJCC.

Your connection to the Jewish Community...

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Levine JCC CARES About...

The Oasis Senior Center

Did you know that the Oasis Senior Center provides meaningful social, physical and intellectual opportunities for all seniors? That the program, housed at the Levine JCC, is the only senior enrichment program in the area that provides much-needed transportation and nutritious, kosher meals.

In recognition of all that the Oasis does to promote the physical health and emotional well-being of its participants, it has been recognized with grant awards from United Way, the Leon and Sandra Levine Foundation and the BJH Foundation for Senior Services. This financial support goes a long way in helping Oasis provide the full gamut of services to seniors. For example, the BJH Foundation grant aided the "Community Center Nurse & Mental Health Wellness" program that focuses on stress reduction, spirituality and mental health by having both a nurse and social worker on hand.

If you are interested in volunteering at the Oasis Senior Center,



Marni Eisner

contact Jodie Iagnocco at 704-944-6753 or jodie.iagnocco@charlottejcc.org.

The Freedom School

The Shalom Park Freedom School is the first Freedom School in the country sponsored by a Jewish community. Today it operates in more than 80 cities across the country with summer programs focusing on literacy, increasing self-esteem and generating more positive attitudes toward learning.

To build upon the this summer, where 50 children from Sterling Elementary and Huntingtowne Farms Elementary Schools came to Shalom Park, Levine JCC will host the children a few times throughout the year to continue that educational enrichment. If you are interested in helping with this effort, contact Marni Eisner at 704-944-6730 or marni.eisner@charlottejcc.org. ☆



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