

JPS Chanukah Mitzvah Project

By Dedee Goldsmith, director of the Jewish Preschool on Sardis

There is an amazing feeling that I get when my worlds collide. Each month that passes, I find new ways that the Jewish Preschool on Sardis has a positive impact on my life. This month, the collision of my worlds gives me an opportunity to share the Jewish Preschool on Sardis with the greater Charlotte community.

In my "spare time," I run a parent-child volunteer group. We are always looking for activities in the community where children and their parents can be involved and contribute to many wonderful organizations and true needs. Over the years, we have served meals at a shelter, cleaned up parks, collected clothing and toiletries for hurricane victims, collected monetary donations for various organizations, donated hair to create wigs for those fighting cancer, visited new friends in assisted living communities and nursing homes, to name just a few. Our group's mission is in line with the saying by Gandhi, "Be the change that you wish to see in the world."

This year we were fortunate enough to get involved with the

Ronald McDonald House of Charlotte. As part of the project, we donned our wackiest hats, put on the red aprons, and were part of a larger group of volunteers that raised over \$110,000. The kids walked away feeling so good about their hard work in addition to having a blast participating. They felt so good, that they wanted to do more. As it turns out, the Ronald McDonald House is always looking for many people to help with many projects. Needless to say, I was eager to hear how the kids could participate more and with that, I scheduled a meeting to learn about more possibilities.

At the meeting, there was discussion of decorations for the holidays. I don't know about you, but when I hear "holidays" here in Charlotte, that is just about as good as hearing "Christmas." So I asked what types of decorations they were putting up. Was Chanukah mentioned? Nope. Menorah? Nope. Dreidels? Still nope. This is where the gears of my brain start churning ...

Chanukah decorations. Jewish Preschool on Sardis. Mitzvah committee. Perfect match. And so, the JPS Chanukah Mitzvah Project was conceived.

The very next day I was on the phone with our Mitzvah committee and PTO heads, trying to plan away. Our school is excited about our Chanukah Mitzvah Project. Here at JPS, we are planning an afternoon where our children and parents can come after school to create Chanukah decorations that will brighten the already warm environment that is at the Ronald McDonald House. No matter the age, skill level or time, we will have something for everyone. The results of our project will then be taken and distributed around the house in the form of door hangers, table centerpieces, and/or mantel décor. What a heartwarming way to share ourselves with the community at large.

Of course at JPS, the children participate in mitzvot every day. They give tzedakah to those in need, help their friends when they need a helping hand, and keep our garden growing with water, just to name a few. This Chanukah decoration mitzvah project allows the children to give in ways that are beyond the day to day practices. Within the walls of our school they will work as a group working towards a common cause or goal. Outside the walls of our school they are sharing the wonderful skills and talents they develop at school; giving and caring to others. Knowing that they are giving of themselves to benefit others should make us all feel proud - because giving from the heart is the greatest mitzvah of all.

If you would like to learn more about our Chanukah Mitzvah Project or would like a tour of our school, please contact us at 704-364-8395 or e-mail us info@jpsonsardis.org. ☆



Women's News

New Director for Hadassah Medical Organization

By Hadas Kasher, president, Charlotte Chapter of Hadassah

The new century at Hadassah starts with a new head for Hadassah Medical Organization, Professor Ehud S. Kokia.

By assuming the leadership of Hadassah Medical Organization, the pioneering health care provider for the State of Israel, which includes both Hadassah University Hospital Ein Kerem and Hadassah University Hospital Mount Scopus, Professor Kokia replaces Professor Shlomo Mor-Yosef, who served as Director General for 11 years.

Kokia, 61, has a 37-year career as a physician and health-care executive. Most recently, he was CEO of Maccabi Healthcare Services.

"I undertake this important responsibility with appreciation and awe for the Hadassah Medical Organization's pioneering contributions to the State of Israel and the Israeli medical system," Prof. Kokia said. "I know that as they have for decades, HMO's 6,000 employees will be at my side as we continue the path that was paved by my colleague and friend Prof. Mor-Yosef. And I know they will be joined by the hundreds of thousands of members, friends, and supporters of the Hadassah Women's Zionist Organization of America, to help us continue to provide superb patient care and produce groundbreaking research. "I eagerly await the opening of the Sarah Wetsman Davidson Hospital Tower, our outstanding new in-patient facility, which will enhance the Hadassah Medical Organization's already extraordinary international reputation for excellence and look forward to working with my colleagues to help realize Hadassah's historic mission."

Hadassah Medical Organiza-

tion has additional reason to celebrate recently the hope for a future cure of insulin-dependent (type 1) diabetes received a boost from the research findings of a multi-year project led by Prof. Yuval Dor of Hebrew University's Institute for Medical Research Israel-Canada with Hadassah University Medical Center's co-lead author Prof. Benjamin Glaser and his research team, who identified the key signal that initiates production of insulin-producing beta cells in the pancreas.

I wanted to share this breakthrough with you as November is American Diabetes Month. With about 26 million children and adults in American living with diabetes, and another 79 million at high risk for developing type 2 diabetes, (source the American Diabetes Association) the disease is taking a devastating physical, emotional and financial toll on our country.

Recent numbers by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention paint a desperate situation of where we are at, and where we are headed:

* Every 17 seconds, someone is diagnosed with diabetes.

* Diabetes kills more people each year than breast cancer and AIDS combined.

* Recent estimates project that as many as 1 in 3 American adults will have diabetes in 2050 unless we take steps to stop diabetes.

The above discovery is one of step out of many taken daily by Hadassah researcher. This research and other are become available due to your efforts. Each and one of you here in Charlotte who takes active part in our organization by volunteering or donating help raising the funds that impacts life around the world. ☆



Hadas Kasher

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Sushi in the Succah Attracts Young Hadassah

Hadassah celebrated Sukkot mingling and enjoying delicious sushi under a beautiful sukkah promptly displayed in the heart of South Park at Cowfish Restaurant.

The Young Hadassah committee hosted this event. The committee, chaired by Patricia Johnson, Dorit Cohen and Allison Neiss, has a mission to create opportunities for young members (ages 18 to 45) to connect. Hadassah is committed to ensure this particular group is involved and engaged.

Janice Bernstein provided a compelling account of how Hadassah researchers are pioneering tomorrow's healing practices. Cutting edge diagnostic approaches are being developed including blood tests that will be as effective as colonoscopies.

Emily Johnson, BBYO Ohavim's Sh'l'icha, led the Sukkot ceremony including shaking the lulav and etrog.

There will be a Hadassah Young Leaders event at Strike City in December.

For more information about Hadassah Young Leaders, like us on Facebook (Charlotte Hadassah) or e-mail youngcharlottehadassah@gmail.com. ☆

