

Local Chapter's Name to be Inscribed at Hadassah Medical Center in Ein Kerem

By Hadas Kasher, president, Charlotte Chapter of Hadassah

We have just completed 2011, and thanks to our members, associate and supporters it was a wonderful year for our chapter.

We have grown significantly and now have over 1000 members and associates. It is a wonderful feeling to see how Hadassah continue to be significant force in our community and be as relevant today as it was 100 years ago.

Each of Hadassah's programs requires significant and long term financial commitment. Medical research takes years before it comes to fruition. Youth villages that serve as homes for at-risk kids need support to be a stable environment and so on. Hadassah members and associates gave generously with donations ranging from a few dollars to millions. Thanks to Charlotte chapter donors we were able to significantly exceed our financial goals. We raised over 125% of our special goal for the new hospital Tower in Jerusalem that will open in March, and we also surpassed our overall fundraising goal.

As a symbol of gratitude our chapter's name will be inscribed on a brick in the "Centennial

Path" at Hadassah Hebrew University Medical Center in Ein Kerem, Jerusalem. Hadassah's Centennial Path will serve as a legacy of what has been—and what can be—because of you.

This is a gift for generations. It will be there for you and your loved ones to see whenever you visit Israel.

Now we are looking forward to an even better 2012. We have plenty of events for our community to enjoy in the 2012.

Our volunteers are putting it all together, enabling us to educate ourselves, meet old and new friends, and raise funds to support our core mission programs.

In April of this year our chapter will host Hadassah Regional meeting and will welcome other chapters from our region to Charlotte. We will be honored to have Hadassah's National President as well as other distinguished guests joining us for a celebration of the century. This will be a wonderful event to learn all about Hadassah and more, all in a fun way, delicious kosher food and great networking opportunity.

Thank you all for your support in 2011, Thank you Charlotte Chapter board members, donors

and volunteers.

With your support we will make 2012 a year to remember.

The Deadliest Forest Fire in Israel's History – a Year Later

One year has passed since the devastating Carmel forest fire, the worst natural disaster in Israeli history, which killed 44 people and destroyed 7,500 acres of forested area.

In February 2011, The Charlotte Chapter of Hadassah, in partnership with the Jewish National Fund (JNF) and with the help of Temple Beth El, Temple Israel, Charlotte Jewish Day School, the Sandra and Leon Levine Jewish Community Center, Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, and other community groups, organized a community-wide initiative to raise funds for JNF's Operation Carmel Renewal (OCR).

With your support, OCR campaign has raised more than \$7.5 million worldwide to rehabilitate the burnt landscape of the Carmel, to purchase new firefighting equipment and trucks, and to re-green effected communities.

Locally in Charlotte, in addition to giving monetary support, we also learned about the forest in Israel and the recovery effort from the JNF forester who leads the recovery effort. We created con-

nections between the fire departments here in Charlotte and Israel. Thanks to the generosity of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, a delegation of three firefighters from the CFD visited

Israel and built a bridge of friendship and cooperation with their Israeli compatriots. Out of the ashes of this deadly fire, the spirit of brotherhood and collaboration was born. ✪



Schools

Learning to Appreciate "Kid-isms"

By Dedee Goldsmith, director, the Jewish Preschool on Sardis

"Mom, is 'Mother Nature' God's wife?"

"When you die, do you go to heaven the same age you die at?"

"How did the first person show up on Earth?"

"Do you know who Zayde's Zayde Zayde is and where he is from?"

These are Kid-isms. You know those questions and statements that kids toss your way. They seemingly come from nowhere while you are tying their shoes, driving along to soccer or snuggling before bed. You never know when they will happen.

We live in a hurried world of scheduled days moving from activity to activity but it is often those transition times, the unstructured or less structured parts of the day that allow us the insight into the brains of our children. We get to see what they think about and how they learn to make sense of this ever changing world.

Why are these moments important? These precious moments allow you to develop a connection with your child that is rich and deep. It is often the one question or comment that allows your child's personality to shine, to see the depth of who they are developing into. It is a time to pause and process the past paced world in which we live. By taking a few moments to talk about the questions and comments, we not only hear what our children think about but it allows us as parents and

teachers to think about our own knowledge and values. There is also room for creativity in these moments. When I am asked questions that are open ended or abstract I like to ask more questions, allowing the child to use their creative energy to think about what is possible. When children connect their current knowledge to new things, we boost their confidence and sense of self. Of course, when I don't know an answer to a relatively concrete answer I use that as the opportunity as well. It is ok to not have all the answers. Showing children how to investigate and research gives them useful life skills. That may be making a phone call, using the internet or a trip to the library to find more answers.

When my oldest was about five, she had numerous questions about God and religion. The questions never seemed to end and I had limited information to offer her. Finally, after a flurry of questions about Judaism compared to other religions, I asked if she would like to sit down with our Rabbi to find out more. In her precocious manner, she went to town making a list to take in to see our Rabbi. It was great to see her engage in her own learning for the sake of learning and no other reason. No grade, no assessment, just for knowledge sake.

How can we capitalize on these random and precious moments?

-Write them down. Keep a kid-ism notebook (or in our current day and age, on your e-gadget).

Kids come up with great names for things and have great ideas. We think we will remember the keen, insightful and witty comments or questions, but so often we don't. Having one place to refer back to is a wonderful trip down memory lane for you and your child. It is great to look back at periods of time to laugh about a comment or to see it differently now that your child has more life experience.

-Ask more questions. "Tell me more," "How did you think about that?" or "that's a great question, where do you think we can find more information about that?"

-Find time to create more opportunities for kid-isms. This may be easier said than done, but take note of patterns. Is there a time of day, a spot in the house or a location that seems to be notable for your child? Use that information to make time for spending a few extra minutes to allow your curious child to ask away or chat away. I know for my family, it seemed like car trips and "getting dressed" times were the moments that created the question times. ✪



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