

Open House for the Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community at the Luski-Gorelick Center for Philanthropy

By Phil Warshauer

On January 29, the Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community (FCJC) hosted an open house for the Jewish community to showcase Foundation For The Carolinas' new headquarters, The Luski - Gorelick Center for Philanthropy. In addition to serving as our region's hub for philanthropy and civic service, the building also tells the story of the many generous philanthropists who make our region a better place to live. Established in 1997 as a supporting foundation of Foundation For The Carolinas, FCJC is an important part of that story, as are the many Jewish philanthropists honored throughout the building.

A gift from Bank of America, the building became the official home of Foundation For The Carolinas in 2011. It was also made possible by the generosity of the Luski and Gorelick families. The Luski family also contributed many works of art to grace the facility, creating a free, accessible place for the art to be enjoyed and appreciated by the entire community. Many other prominent area philanthropists also contributed generously to the building's upfitting, allowing the building to serve as a community resource, and

offering board and conference rooms for free to nonprofits during weekday business hours. The building has a strong Jewish presence, with many spaces within named after families in our community.

* Luski - Gorelick Center for Philanthropy is named to honor Carol and Shelton Gorelick, Patty and Bill Gorelick, Rose and Abe Luski, and Sonia and Isaac Luski.

* Sonia and Isaac Luski Gallery is the home to an incredible collection of art for all to be seen and admired. Art was gifted and loaned by various members of the Luski family.

* Levine Conference Center is a gift by Sandra and Leon Levine to our entire community providing conference rooms for use by nonprofit organizations, as well as for private rentals.

* Bernstein Conference Room honors the philanthropic contributions of Mark Bernstein.

* Silverman Pavilion honors the philanthropic contributions of Mattye and Mark Silverman.

* Sklut Classroom honors the philanthropic contributions of Lori and Eric Sklut.

The following are among those honored in Legacy Hall for transforming the philanthropic land-

scape by establishing permanent grant making endowments and foundations:

- * Herman Blumenthal
- * I.D. Blumenthal
- * Leon Levine

Located at 220 North Tryon Street, the building was previously occupied by the Mint Museum of Craft + Design from 1999 through 2010, and by Montaldo's department store from 1929 through 1992. Prior to Montaldo's, the 220 North Tryon Street housed the Dowd branch of the YMCA, J.M. Harry Funeral Home and the Wadsworth Livery Stable. The current structure on this site was completed in 1950.

With multiple conference and board rooms, the building serves not only as an office for Foundation staff, but also as a gathering place and civic hub for the philanthropic community. An art gallery on the first floor of the building, made possible by contributions from the Sonia and Isaac Luski and Rose and Abraham Luski families, opened in late November. The gallery is open to the public Monday through Friday, 10 AM-5 PM. Spaces within the building are available for rental for weddings, receptions, corporate retreats and other events.

The Charlotte Jewish community continues to play a significant role in the growth of our region. This is reflected in the unique relationship between the Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community and Foundation For The Carolinas. The Luski - Gorelick Center for Philanthropy illustrates this special bond while providing a valuable community resource. ☆

For more information about the Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community please contact Phil Warshauer, Executive Director, at 704-973-4544 or pwarshauer@charlottejewish-foundation.org.

Hebrew Cemetery Association

By Lorrie Klemons, publicity

February 8, Shevat 15, is the celebration of Tu B'Shevat - the New Year of the Trees.

Why do we celebrate trees? What is the significance of such celebration to us as a Jewish people? Are we commanded to celebrate the actual tree? Perhaps it is truly meant to be the celebration of the wonders of the natural environment that allow trees to grow from simple tiny seeds into tall and vast organic structures that reach towards heaven.

The fact is that the Torah teaches us that individual trees are sacred. Fruit trees are never to be cut down even as a spoil of war. Saplings are not to be touched at all during their first few years of growth and development. Why such reference? What does God know about trees that perhaps we as humans have yet to learn? Is it not enough that they give us shelter from the rain, protection from the sun, strong foundations for our homes and sustenance for our bodies?

My husband and I owned a backyard construction company for twenty years. We primarily used locally grown Southern Yellow Pine for our deck and porch construction. We often felt guilty when we thought about how many trees needed to be cut down in order to build one wooden project, even though we knew that pine forests were re-planted on a cyclical basis. Our young children would often question our environmentally "unfriendly" use of the forest. Over the years we resolved our guilt through Torah study. We came to realize that the true miracle of the trees lies in the beauty and wonder with which they feed our souls. People flock to the mountains annually to catch a glimpse of the magnificence of the fall foliage. People love the first signs of spring as plants turn green



Hebrew
Cemetery
Association

and flowers renew their blooms. It is an entire cycle of life. That wondrous natural phenomenon is but one of God's gifts to humanity.

So, yes, while there is a time for the cutting down of trees for necessary human consumption, there is also the time for the celebrating of trees and the beauty, comfort, outreach, protection, sheltering, and sustenance they offer us.

February is also Random Acts of Loving Kindness month. Reach out to a stranger in your community and do something kind for them. It will make you feel so great. Visit the Hebrew Cemetery and see the beauty of the trees planted there as they contribute to the serenity and tranquility of the site. Join the cemetery today and become part of the family of over 700 other Charlotte families that support the work of the Hebrew Cemetery Association. What could be more random and loving than that?

For more information about the Steinberger Funeral Assistance Fund which helps to fund burials for the indigent in our community, membership benefits, graves, pre-paid 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@hebrew-cemetery.org. Visit the cemetery website at www.hebrewcemetery.org or just come visit the cemetery for a personal tour. ☆

The 34th Charlotte Yiddish Institute

Sponsored by the Sandra & Leon Levine Jewish Community Center of Charlotte, August 16-19, Wildacres Retreat at Little Switzerland, NC

.....Farbraing Mit Undz.....

Featuring An Outstanding Faculty for 2012:

Ali & Gene Kavadlo: Lecture and recital. Outstanding Klezmer duo.

Robert Paul Abelson, Cantor, Composer, Performer, Yiddish Entertainer

Joyce Rosenzweig, World Renowned Pianist, Arranger, Entertainer

Dr. Paul Nitsch, Pianist, Professor of Music and Artist in residence at Queens University in Charlotte

Hazzan Moishe Friedler sings and entertains in Yiddish, Hebrew, Ladino, and Spanish

The Charlotte Yiddish Institute is open to men, women and teens who enjoy the Yiddish language, and are dedicated to enhancing the understanding of Yiddishkeit, in a culturally stimulating "hey mish atmosphere"

Fees

*\$360 per person (double occupancy only)

*\$150 additional per person fee for Private Room

Fees cover tuition, room, kosher meals, and gratuities. Full fee must accompany registration.

Guest Rooms:

All rooms w/private bath located in two modern mountain view lodges

Cancellation Policy:

Full fee will be refunded if cancellation is made prior to July 30. An administration charge of \$50 will be charged to all late

cancellations.

Email us:

cltyiddishinst@aol.com.

Arrival and Registration:

Thursday, August 16 from 2-5 PM

Departure:

Sunday, August 19 at 11 AM

Transportation:

Directions for travel to Wildacres by auto will be sent upon receipt of reservations. Bus transportation is available from Charlotte Airport to Wildacres Retreat on August 16. Cost is \$80.00 round trip per person. Please include this fee with the registration. Bus departs Charlotte Airport promptly at 1 PM on August 16 and arrives back to Charlotte Airport around 2:30 PM on Sunday, August 19 or a bit later. Group will meet at Baggage Claim, adjacent to "Door D." **In the event of an emergency, day of arrival, please contact: Berta/Batya at 704 287-6451.

Important - Important - Important!

*Make your reservations for early arrival at the airport on the 16 of August. If you arrive after the bus has departed, you will be responsible for your own transportation to Wildacres. For additional information, please contact: *Baila Pransky, 704-366-5564 (Coordinator); *Heshl and Etta Spindel, 704-875-7324 (Reservations, Welcome, & Hospitality); *Charlotte and Gerry Miller, 704-896-1644 (Welcome and Hospitality); *Don & Shevi Herbstman, 704-752-1910 (Transportation, Welcome, and Reservations)

Come celebrate an unforgettable Yiddish experience. ☆

Down Home: Jewish Life in North Carolina to Open at Levine Museum of the New South February 25

Beginning February 25, Levine Museum of the New South will host Down Home: Jewish Life in North Carolina, an exhibit that chronicles Jewish life in the Tar Heel state from colonial times to the present. Down Home is generously underwritten by the Leon Levine Foundation, Sandra and Leon Levine, the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, and the Tannenbaum-Sternberger Foundation, with in-kind support from Duke University.

The Charlotte exhibition has been made possible thanks to support from the Gorelick Family: Patty & Bill Gorelick, Carol & Shelton Gorelick, and their children and grandchildren. Additional support comes from media sponsor *Our State* magazine and a host committee of individuals from the local Charlotte community.

Down Home will be on display at Levine Museum February 25 through September 9, and include six months of related program-

ming and additional companion exhibits.

The entire community is invited to celebrate the opening of the exhibit and join Levine Museum for a "Down Home Evening" on Sunday, February 26. Beginning at 5:30 PM, guests will enjoy an exhibit open house and reception, with music by Viva Klezmer and UNC Charlotte throughout the evening. Remarks will take place at 7 PM. Cost to attend is \$25 for museum members and \$40 for non-members. To RSVP, contact Lindsay Fairbrother at 704-333-1887 ext. 250 or lfairbrother@museumofthenewsouth.org.

All That Remains

A new panel exhibit created to accompany Down Home, All That Remains was inspired by an article that originally appeared in Charlotte magazine. Writer Ken Garfield interviewed ten people living in the Charlotte area who survived the Holocaust and understood the importance of telling their stories before it's too late.

Photographer Chris Edwards took beautiful, stirring portraits of each. Together, these stories are a voice from the past, a gift from ten Charlotteans determined to have the last word. On exhibit February 25-September 9.

Courage and Compassion

In 1941, the Nazis initiated their murderous campaign against the Jews of Belarus. Three brothers, Tuvia, Asael, and Zus Bielski, refused to become victims, and courageously fought back. They escaped to the forest, and began rescuing relatives, friends, and complete strangers, resulting in the rescue of more than 1,200 men, women and children. Courage and Compassion, tells this remarkable story, and is on exhibit at Levine Museum in conjunction with Violins of Hope, a cultural and educational community initiative organized by the College of Arts + Architecture at UNC Charlotte. On exhibit February 25-June 3. ☆