

Youth Visions

Hebrew High-Lights

8th Graders Retreat Create Spoken Word Poetry at Retreat

This year's 8th grade retreat focused on creating Spoken Word Poetry to express our Jewish identity. The class was aided by The Black Ink Monks of Johnson C. Smith University, along with their advisors and professors, Kirsten Hemmy and Cindy Kistenberg.

After watching the documentary, "Louder Than a Bomb," about Chicago's annual Slam Poetry contest for local high schools, the students set about creating their own poems.

Here are a few of the first lines of several excellent poems. For the remainder of the verses, visit www.charlottejewishnews.org and click on the "local" link.

*My neighborhood gleams with red, green, and gold
These synthetic lights scream for attention
But my house sits dark and quiet like a lost child
Except for a single light flickering behind an ivory curtain.
My school buzzes with Christmas cheer
And I find myself faintly humming along
To "Jingle Bells" or "The Little Drummer Boy," so overplayed
They must be tattooed to my mind.*

They expect things, they judge me.

*Yet they never want me.
They make me my second biggest critic
I'm pretty sure I should be first
But then again, if I'm first in anything I'll make them mad
Their anger changes into their own weapon
Branding even the strongest of mind with "weird"
Just because they're mad at what?*

*My clothes; my emotions; my solemn tears.
Everyone says "what doesn't kill you makes you stronger"
Well, I think it's killing me
The knife of words cuts deep
A gash everyone's oblivious to.*

*When I was in New Jersey, everything was great
But then it all changed, my love became hate
Then I found out the worst news ever*



*I had to leave it all behind, nothing will be better
Nothing was ever the same, I was in a whole new world
It all came so fast, and I left behind my girl.
One day we hopped on a plane and came down to the NC
The words on this paper make the greatest MC*

*Who am I to you?
A son, a stranger, someone on the sidewalk asking for money?
Do you know the real me?
I am your son.
You don't know me though.
I don't think you care.
You get mad but never sad.
I've seen you cry once, tears at my Bar Mitzvah.
I said, "Don't cry."
Everyone laughed but you.
When we were in the office
And the person said
"David is going with mom and Lauren is gonna stay with Dad,"
I turned to mom and said, "thank God!"
You just sat there with that normal grin on your face.
People say David and Lauren because D comes before L, because I was born before Lauren.
But you say Lauren before David because she always comes first in your mind.*

*Friends here show love for me and show their respect for me more than I feel you have.
Do you want to know how to love me?*



P2G COMMUNITY TEEN LEADERSHIP EXCHANGE - JULY 2012

In collaboration with the Jewish Federation, Temple Beth El, Temple Israel and Consolidated High School of Jewish Studies

PART I HADERA: Journey to Israel with shlichah Mor Green and teens from across the Southeast and spend two weeks with students from Hadera. Travel the country, engage in *tikkun olam* projects and learn about Israel's politics, culture and society. Enjoy Israeli hospitality and teen life.



INFORMATION SESSION
Thursday, March 15, 6:00 pm
FSP Boardroom @ Shalom Park
RSVP: Shaliach@jewishcharlotte.org

PART II CHARLOTTE: Welcome Hadera teens and introduce them to the American way of life. Together they will explore Charlotte's Jewish community and all the Queen city has to offer to learn about our cultural differences, *tzedakah* and leadership.

Approximate cost for all 4 weeks is \$3,300.

For more information, please contact Rachael Levine in the Federation office at 704.944.6751 or rachael.levine@jewishcharlotte.org.