

# Ohavim in January 2012

By Mimi Brown

Ohavim is already off to a great start in the New Year. We came back from winter break and began practice for Winter Cultural. Winter Cultural is the annual BBYO contest convention for North Carolina Council BBYO. All chapters in NC Council competed at the Charlotte JCC to win the Spirit Cup. The convention was held the weekend of February 3rd.

All of the girls in Ohavim have worked incredibly hard to prepare for Winter Cultural. Every single Ohavim BBG sister deserves a huge thank you for all the hard work put in to preparing. Jessie Sachs, our chapter advisor deserves huge thanks as well. She is amazing as always. All of our hard work paid off, and Ohavim BBG won the Spirit Cup at Winter Cultural. Ohavim placed first in four individual contests and second in six individual contests as

well. Congratulations to our brother chapter, Hank Greenburg AZA for winning the AZA Spirit Cup and congrats to JPB for winning the BBYO Chapter Spirit Cup. Every chapter in NCC did an amazing job at the convention.

Ohavim BBG recently held midyear elections for six of our eight board positions that are half-year terms. Congratulations to Mimi Brown, Cory Cassell, Emily Johnson, Alyssa Soto, Paige Rabinowitz, and Madison Salem our newly elected board members and a special shout-out to Karla Jagodinski and Gabrielle Lewis who hold yearlong positions on Ohavim Board.

Ohavim is off to an amazing start in 2012 and is looking forward to our best year yet. ✨



Ohavim girls! Cory Cassell, Mimi Brown, and Madison Salem.

# Community News

## LJCC Will Be Open More Hours - And What That Means

By The Board of the Levine Jewish Community Center; David Van Glish, president

Readers of *The Charlotte Jewish News* are likely aware that the Levine Jewish Community Center has made some changes to the schedule for when we're open during some Jewish holidays.

The operating schedule will remain the same during Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Shabbat. But for all other holidays, the facility will be closed while worship services are being held on Shalom Park. In other words, the "J" will close early on all erevs or "festival openings" the night before, and open at 1 PM the following days.

The LJCC staff and board studied this change for several years. We had many conversations with Jewish community leaders, professional staff, and clergy. A survey of our Jewish members showed strong support for the proposed changes.

Not surprisingly, there was a lot of debate, some disagreement, and discussion among Shalom Park partners before we created a collaborative final decision. We addressed many concerns and reviewed and debated the potential issues and benefits. One of the biggest concerns we heard was

that being open more hours on some holidays might contribute to troubling local and national trends toward declining Jewish affiliation, observance, and engagement.

While we respect and understand these sentiments, the decision to change the holiday schedule should not compound these trends, but may, in fact, help reverse them by encouraging more engagement among local Jews and their families.

Someone once said that whenever a Jewish person or family comes to Shalom Park, every agency here wins. The new schedule and its underlying intent reflect this wisdom, and expand upon it. The LJCC's leadership intends to use the change as a platform to work with the temples to deliver enhanced Jewish education and programming that complement and support the activities of our partner institutions.

Our hope is that being open more hours, coupled with collaborative and creative outreach efforts, will give local Jews more reasons to come to the Park more often and engage.

Over the long term, ideal results would be more people attending worship services and programs at the temples. More people working out at the "J," taking arts classes,

or hanging out at the pool with friends and family. More volunteering at Jewish Family Services or giving to Federation. If we're successful, the entire Jewish community will grow and become stronger.

The LJCC and peer Jewish institutions, both on and off the Park, have a common interest in keeping the local Jewish community strong and vibrant. From the outset, the most important consideration in modifying our schedule was not simply being open more hours; it was helping to realize our mission to "enrich lives and build relationships through quality Jewish experiences."

The changes reflect what we feel is an appropriate and healthy re-balancing of the needs and interests of our members and the broader Jewish community, in response to today's challenges and opportunities.

We hope you share our excitement about the new schedule and will partner with us to achieve its potential. ✨



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