

Youth Visions

Hebrew Highlights

Hebrew High Ends Year with Great Programs

Instead of just quietly winding down, the Hebrew High 5772 school year is ending with series of special programs that are exciting, educational and fun.

* On March 28, the entire school participated in a Hunger Banquet. This pre-Passover program is designed to teach the students about global hunger and the cycle of poverty. Upon entry, each student was given a card that determined his or her socio-economic class. The meal they were served and the details of their lives were defined by this status. As we approached our own Passover feasts it was important for us to remember that more than 50% of the world's population lives in poverty. Middle class, according to world standards, is over \$12,000 annually for a family of four.

* On April 11, the student body heard Assa Bielski Weinstein speak about her father's experi-



Joey Kelso and Matt Rabinowitz love everything about Hebrew High.

ences with the Partisans during World War II. Mr Bielski's story was highlighted in the movie "Defiance." Students had the opportunity to ask questions about their lives while living in the forests of Belorussia avoiding detection by the Nazis.

* J-Serve this year is going to be a really great event. The Teen Coalition is putting on a spring

carnival for underprivileged and special needs children. There will be games, balloons, food, prizes and more. All of this is the Charlotte way of participating in a nationwide day of Jewish teen service.

* A taste of Hebrew High is a new event this year. All Jewish rising 8th graders and their parents are invited to

come and try out some of our most popular Hebrew high classes. The students and adults will experience art, text study, Israeli advocacy, and some surprises. They will surely learn that Hebrew high is the place for Jewish teens to be on Wednesday nights.

At Hebrew High, Charlotte's Jewish teens, extend their Jewish knowledge, develop Jewish pride

and learn to live by Jewish values. Don't let your student miss the opportunity to participate. For more information about the 5773 (2012-2013) school year call Roz at 707-944-6782 or email rcoop-er@shalomcharlotte.org. ☆



The Friendship Circle Passover Experience

As you may know, the Passover Seder includes a lengthy amount of time spent on reading the Haggadah and retelling the story of the Jewish people's exodus from slavery and the land of Egypt. On Passover, a special effort is made to engage the children. We encourage questions and make sure the children are part of the Seder. For children with special needs however, the Passover Seder can be very difficult to sit through and can also be very overwhelming.

This year, the Friendship Circle organized two Passover events to

ensure children with special needs were also included in the Passover experience:

1. A Model Matzah Bakery & Passover Art Circle were organized to take the children back a couple thousand years and experience the story of Passover in a hands-on and fun way. Participants

were able to take home their very own matzah and Seder plate.

2. For the first time ever, Friendship Circle organized an actual Passover Seder for children with special needs. A special sensory friendly Seder is in the works! Being that this article was written prior to the Seder taking place, be sure to check our Facebook page for an update on how the Seder went at:



Baking matzah at the Friendship Circle Model Matzah Bakery.

Facebook.com/FCCharlotte.

About Friendship Circle: The Friendship Circle is an organization that cultivates friendships between teen volunteers and children with special needs. The Friendship Circle is a beneficiary agency of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte.

For more information visit friendshipcircleNC.org or call 704-366-5983. ☆



Levine-Sklut Judaic Library and Resource Center



Poetry Coffee House

Welcome to the Inaugural Poetry Coffee House sponsored by the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library. On Sunday, May 6, we will feature the works of Charlotte poets Briana Bernstein and Barbara Lawing, as well as renowned Jewish poets including, Hal Sirowitz, Shel Silverstein, and Israeli poet Yehuda Amichai. We are proud to announce that both Briana Bernstein and Barbara Lawing will be present and each will share an original poem.

Poetry, long thought of as an art

form in terminal decline, has recently taken off, in part due to the internet and in part due to poetry slams. According to a recent NPR interview with author Deborah Garrison, "American poetry is in good shape. Publishers are actually fighting over poets, and a new generation has developed a taste for verse."

If you are curious about poetry or love poetry or, even, write poetry, we encourage you to join us for an informal morning of sharing. Celebrate a vibrant art form!



Poet and author Briana Bernstein

Date and time: Sunday, May 6, 10 AM

Refreshments: Coffee and donuts

Free - All welcome ☆

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