

Schools

David Epstein Speaks at Grandparents' Day 2012 at Charlotte Jewish Day School

"Our sages teach us that the purest form of philanthropy is when the donor gives anonymously and the recipient is also anonymous.

"However, there is a corollary to this teaching — our sages also teach us that we should be a model for others and that we should lead by example.

"And so, on that basis, hoping that you will follow our example, and the example of the previous recipients of this award [Jerry and Barbara Levin and Bill and Patty Gorelick], we are extremely thrilled and appreciative to receive the Barbara and Jerry Levin Visionary Award.

"... I hope you don't mind the infomercial I am about to give. ... I was mentored many years ago to understand that whenever there is a Jewish gathering, whatever the reason, there should be some fund-raising. It seems to be part of our DNA.

"Well, Aleen and I are here to tell you that thanks to ... Mariashi Groner, our outstanding and totally committed faculty, our

Development Team, our PTO organization, our support staff, and our Officers and members of the Board of Trustees, the Charlotte Jewish Day School is, for its size, the best day school in our entire country.

"Our children are getting a fabulous secular education, which more than matches up with any private or public school in Charlotte. Our children compete well with their peers in the private and public school systems and our children always come out at or near the top, when they are tested against their peers.

"Mariashi and her staff are innovative, progressive, and forward thinking. For example, this year, as part of our ever-changing curriculum, they have installed the most advanced global studies program available, which has opened our children to the world in which we live.

"Our children are taught to be curious and to think outside of the box. Best of all, our children are being given the basis of a moral compass that will serve them for a lifetime.

"Our children are happy, they are eager to come to school every day, and they are excited with what each school day brings to them.

"Our children are also getting a very strong background in Judaica. Now, that does not mean that all of our graduates will be rabbis. Nor is that the school's purpose. But, our graduates will leave our school with a knowledge of Judaism that will give them comfort regardless of the environment they're in.

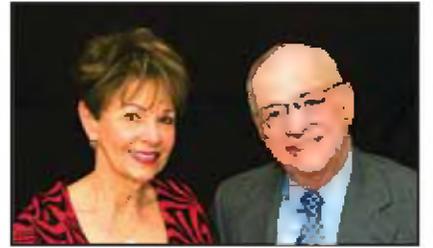
"I recently attended a Bat Mitzvah of one of our recent graduates in which the rabbi paid tribute to her Hebrew education. Paraphrasing the rabbi, he said: 'You have not been trained only to be a Bat Mitzvah; you have been taught what it means to be a young Jewish woman who will comfortably take her place in the Jewish community.' This is what our Day School is all about and I could not think of a bigger compliment to our school.

"And I can assure you that each of our students is educated from their first day in school until their graduation to take their place as members of the Jewish community when their time comes.

"Now, for some bad news. I recently spent some time on a website that concentrates on Day School education.

Unfortunately, I must report to you that I do not think there is a Day School in the United States or Canada that does not operate at a deficit. It just is not possible to give the quality education which our children receive and keep the tuition affordable without running at a deficit.

"And, I cannot emphasize how important it is to the Day School and our families that our tuition is kept affordable. This is something



Aleen and David Epstein

that Mariashi and the Board struggle with on a daily basis.

"... it is important that our tuition be kept affordable because many of our families have more than one student in the Day School; our families have mortgages, they have auto payments, and they have many other obligations, not to mention the difficult economy they are experiencing.

"... it is also important that our tuition be kept affordable because our school competes with the private school sector. For some of our families, where they send their children to school is strictly an economic decision.

"Fortunately, here in Charlotte, we get significant support from our Federation, for which our school is deeply appreciative. Our annual campaign is also a very essential source in closing the gap in our annual deficit. Our school is always having one sort of fundraiser or another and our PTO and others are always looking for new fundraising ideas. However, none of these sources is enough.

"And this is where all of us come in; it is critical that we, the grandparents of our students, support the Day School to the greatest extent possible. Without the support of our grandparents, our Day School cannot exist.

"I realize that many of our grandparents gathered here today are already helping your children with the tuition payments. Isn't that a 'no brainer'? What better use can any of us make of our funds than to insure that our grandchildren are able to receive a Day School education?

"And I urge you not to forget the Day School once your grandchildren graduate. Please continue to keep the Charlotte Jewish Day School in your charitable thoughts.

"It is true that many of you support Jewish institutions in your own home cities and I agree that this is your first obligation. But, we are all here today to celebrate the accomplishments of these wonderful children at this very special school right here. This is only the beginning of your grandchildren's Jewish life.

"Statistically, study after study has established that our grandchildren who have received a Day School education are more likely to be leaders in high school, on college campuses, and in their communities. I am sure that their intermarriage rates

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CLIENT ADVISOR

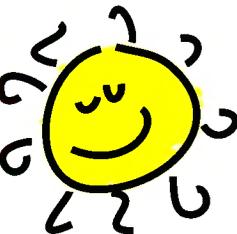
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APPLE PICKING

FOR YOUNG FAMILIES



PREPARE for Rosh Hashanah while having a great time!

PICK a variety of luscious apples for your holiday table at a family friendly orchard.

ENJOY the many great features at Carrigan Farms!

Sunday, September 9
10:00 am
Carrigan Farms, Mooresville, NC

\$10 per person (children under 2 are free)
Includes hayride, tour, cider tasting and half a peck of apples to take home!

Register online at
www.jewishcharlotte.org
(RSVP Required by Sept 6)



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Questions??? Contact Tair Giudice, Director of Outreach & Engagement
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