

Holocaust Education Day Stan Greenspon Charitable Trust Commits to Program Continuation

The Jewish Federation Community Relations Council (JCRC) builds relationships throughout the greater community and advocates on issues of concern to the Jewish community. Over the years, we have worked diligently with both the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) and Union County Public Schools (UCPS) to promote diversity in the public school system and provide educational resources on a range of topics.

As a Jewish community, we have a strong commitment to education and unique role to play in Holocaust education in particular. The Holocaust is an example of the consequences of prejudice, racism, anti-Semitism, and stereotyping. By providing speakers, resources and programming, we can help students develop an understanding of the uses and abuses of power and the roles and responsibilities of citizens, organizations, and nations to never again remain silent and indifferent in the face of oppression.

Last April, 117 students from an 8th grade academically gifted

class at Sun Valley Middle School attended a workshop for Holocaust education on Shalom Park. Coordinated by the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, students participated in a range of activities to learn the history of the Holocaust and draw on those lessons of tolerance and understanding to create a more peaceful future.

As part of a full day of programming, the group listened to Holocaust Survivor Suly Chenkin tell her story; they learned of the many Jewish and Israeli contributions to the world from the Community Shlichah Mor Green; small groups participated in the Levine Jewish Community Center's Butterfly Project, viewed the Kinder-Transport exhibit on loan from the North Carolina Council on the Holocaust, and took a deeper look at topics ranging from Nazi Propaganda to Jewish Resistance in lessons and discussions led by local Charlotte educators with materials provided by the Levine Sklut Judaic Library and Resource Center.

One student shared, "I think

that this trip has opened my eyes. It really gave me a better feel and greater knowledge about the Holocaust and my personal ethical values!" Through the lively discussions and hands on activities, the students and faculty were greatly impacted.

Special thanks to the Stan Greenspon Charitable Trust for supporting Holocaust education.

Michael O'Hagan, a teacher from Sun Valley Middle School, said "I think that as we move forward in the years to come, we will provide future generations of students a deep understanding of what occurred and the tools to help guard them and the world from hatred and intolerance."

Following the success of this initial program, the Stan Greenspon Charitable Trust has provided a generous donation to continue these programs for the upcoming year. Stan Greenspon shared his commitment to the program, "My interest in the Holocaust Education Program

comes from my own personal experience. I was unaware as a child growing up in a Jewish home about this horrific event, as were most of my friends and schoolmates of all religions. My education has come from meeting survivors, hearing their stories, and reading. I am pleased to have the opportunity, through partnership with the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, to be able to bring awareness and education of the Holocaust to the school system and to keep the lessons of the Holocaust alive for younger generations."

The Jewish Federation is grateful for this generous sup-

port and pleased to announce that 10 schools from the Union County Public School system have already committed to participating in Holocaust Education Workshops this year.

Ignorance and denial are two of the causes of history repeating itself. Through this program, students and faculty will be educated not only on the history of the Holocaust, but also on the lessons from the Holocaust focusing on tolerance, understanding and individual responsibility in an effort to help prevent similar atrocities in the future.

For more information about this program, please contact Rachael Levine at Rachael.levine@jewishcharlotte.org or 704-944-6751. ✪

From Indifference to Involvement In Honor of Yitzhak Rabin's 17th Memorial Day

By Roni Amitai, community shlichah

On Saturday evening, November 4, 1995 - the 12th of Heshvan, 5756 - Israel's Prime Minister and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin was shot to death by a Jewish assassin who didn't agree with his peace policy. The assassination took place as Rabin was leaving a rally under the slogan "Yes to Peace - No to Violence."

Yitzhak Rabin gave his life standing up for ideals he believed in. In his last speech he talked about the active role people have in the making of peace: "I have always believed that the majority of the people want peace, are prepared to take risks for peace. And you here, by coming to this rally, along with the many who did not make it here, prove that the people truly want peace and oppose violence. Violence is undermining the very foundations of Israeli democracy. It must be condemned, denounced, and isolated. This is not the way of the State of Israel ..."

After his death the Israeli author Amos Oz wrote a poem in his honor:

*Yitzhak Rabin was murdered
Because he wished to look
away from wars and graves
And chose to see life, and
peace.*

*Do not bless his memory
Do not bless his grave
Bless life
And justice
And freedom
And wisdom
And reality*

*Because for these ideals
Yitzhak Rabin was murdered.*

Indifference killed Rabin but

involvement will keep his legacy alive. The Israeli people did not stand up in time to stop the violence and incitement against their leader, but today, as we are looking for ways to bless his memory we should think how we can be more involved in order to influence and make our community and state a better place. As Jews we are taught to carry out the mitzvah of Tikkun Olam - Give back and help those in need. Sometimes we need to think and act on behalf of ourselves.

In one of his speeches Rabin said that one of the biggest prob-

lems of Israelis is their optimistic saying: "It will be alright" - As if we don't have a say or control over the matter.

The Yitzhak Rabin Memorial Day is a hard day of reckoning with the knowledge that a Jewish Israeli citizen could assassinate his prime-minister just because he disagreed with his ideas. Israel stops to pay tribute to one of its most active and influential leaders. I suggest that you also stand up for what you believe in, celebrate life and your power over and responsibility for it, and stay active in our beautiful community. ✪

Tributes to the 2013 Annual Campaign

The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte thanks and acknowledges the following tributes which have been made to the 2013 Annual Campaign in September 2012.

In honor of Tracy Brown for receiving the Kipnis-Wilson/Friedland Award
By Liz Winer

In honor of the birth of Mayer Davi, grandson of Ira and Linda Bass
By Mike and Sue Littauer

In honor of the birth of Mayer Davi, grandson of Mike and Sara Schreibman
By Mike and Sue Littauer

In honor of the birth of Mayer Davi, son of Philip and Renee Schreibman
By Mike and Sue Littauer

In honor of the birth of Zoe Lenora, granddaughter of Alan Epley and Fern Ingber Epley
By Mike and Sue Littauer

In memory of Paul Abramson
By Harriet Meetz

In memory of Carol Neveloff
By Mike and Sue Littauer

If you would like to make a Tribute to the Jewish Federation, please contact the Federation office at 704-944-6761. ✪

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For more information,
contact Rachael Levine at
rachael.levine@jewishcharlotte.org or
704.944.6757

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