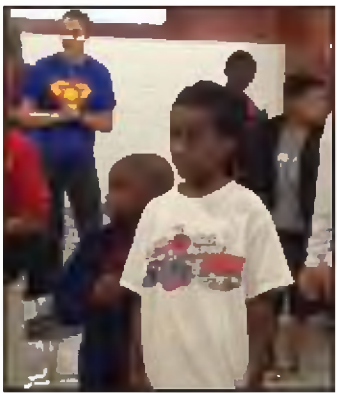


Community News

Day of Fun at Shalom Park for Freedom School Students

"Fall Back to Shalom Park" is what 30 scholars from the Shalom Park Freedom School ("SPFS") did on Saturday, November 3, at the Levine Jewish Community Center. The scholars, children ages 6-12, from Sterling Elementary and Huntingtowne Farms Elementary schools, participated in last summer's SPFS, a six-week summer program that builds literacy among high-poverty elementary school children. As part of its new year-round programming, SPFS invited its summer scholars to return for a day of fun. The scholars first enjoyed a pizza lunch in the Camp Mindy Recreation Hall, followed by Haram-



Students came to Shalom Park for a Day of Fun at the Freedom School

bee, an energetic pep rally to celebrate and affirm each participant (Kiswahili for "Let's Pull Together"). Next, two community guests read to the children: Tracy Brown, co-chair of the SPFS Teen Board, and Katie Starr, a junior at Providence Day School. That was followed by an hour of swim lessons in the Barbara L. Levine Indoor Pool, with LJCC swim instructors. When the scholars had dried off, they enjoyed cooking for the next hour with Susan Jacobs, Director of Education at Temple Beth El.

"Seeing the kids so happy to be back at the 'J,' makes me feel so good about being part of the Shalom Park Freedom School," said Annie Brown, a 17-year-old junior at Providence Day School, who has served on SPFS's Teen Board since its inception two years ago. "It's so awesome to have this year-long connection with the kids and the Teen Board." And happy those kids were. Their smiles at seeing the teens and interns they were with for six weeks over the summer stretched across their faces.

"Wow! What a fabulous day!" said past co-chair of SPFS, Shirley Rosen. "We could not do these days without the support

of the LJCC. Thanks so much for your help in planning and delivering an excellent program." Necole L. Watts, School Year Engagement Coordinator, Freedom School Partners, drove 14 scholars to the event on the Freedom School Partners bus. On the bus ride home, the scholars "talked about coming back to the next event in January. To all volunteers and staff who helped make this event possible for them, I say good job."

The scholars will participate in two more year-round programming events at the Levine JCC, one in January and one in March.

Spearheaded by Temple Beth El, SPFS began two years ago as a joint effort between eight Charlotte Jewish organizations: the Charlotte Jewish Day School, the Foundation of Shalom Park, Jewish Family Services, the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, the Levine Jewish Community Center, the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library, Temple Beth El, and Temple Israel. Its mission is to build Jewish identity, pride, and community by engaging all segments of the Jewish Community in a collaborative effort to provide a free, high-quality, summer educational program for children of poverty in



Annie Brown spends time with students at Shalom Park's Freedom School.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. The Freedom School Programs, founded in 1995 by the Children's Defense Fund, prevents summer learning loss for over 90% of participants; 63% of scholars showed gains and 30% maintained in their ability to read. Most low-income students lose two to three months reading ability during the summer months. For more information, visit the SPFS website at www.spffreedomschool.org.

The day can best be summed up by a scholar who was heard to say as he was getting on the bus to leave, "This was the best day ever!" ☆

Donations to Jewish Family Services

(Continued from previous page)

McManus and Lisa Bayer Carpenter from Jenny and Rich Rosenthal and Ida Marie Berman, Meg Goldstein and Matthew Luftglass

Don Gottheim to Merle and Alan Gottheim from Jenny and Rich Rosenthal and Ida Marie Berman, Maxine and Robert Stein

Fred Freifeld to the Freifeld family from Margie and Ben Liebstein

Helen Badt to Nancy Bernstein from Janice and Daniel Bernstein

Leonard Klein to Linda Klein from Meg Goldstein and Matthew Luftglass

Lorraine Oudin to Dr. and Mrs. Alvin Goodman and to Mr. & Mrs. Donald Effren from Rosalie and Alan Blumenthal and family, Judie and Michael Van Glish, Jenny and Rich Rosenthal and Ida Marie Berman, Linda Greenfield and Ira Dunst, Meg Goldstein and Matthew Luftglass

Marilyn Shapiro to Cindy Tracy, Laura Sullivan, Marla Shapiro, and Jeffrey Shapiro from Nicki and Joel Ostrow, Marilyn's friends

Philip Bernake from Mildred and Bennett Lyons

Stanley Jetter to Bonnie Freedman from Helaine and Arnie Stone ☆

CAMP MINDY 2013
Preschool thru Teens

MEMBER REGISTRATION
Sunday, January 13, 2013 9-11am
Lori Sklut Recreation Hall
at Camp Mindy

NON MEMBER REGISTRATION
Begins Monday, February 4, 2013

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CAMP MINDY
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Got questions? 704-944-6738 • mark.didonato@charlottejcc.org