

The Art of Zikaron

By Roni Amitai, community Shlichah

Every year, on the fourth day of the Jewish month of Iyar, I go back to my high school. Waiting for me there are the familiar faces of my closest friends, people I studied with, my old teachers, as well as new faces in the shape of current students, soldiers, that like me, during my service, came to the school that day, proudly wearing their new uniform. We all stand together in silence while our school headmaster calls out the names of our graduated student who died defending our country. That day is Yom Ha'Zikaron (the day of memory, Israel's Memorial Day) – a day of Remembrance for Israeli Fallen Soldiers and Victims of Terrorism. Yom Ha'Zikaron is a day in Israel dedicated to the memory of family members and friends who lost their lives defending our homeland. As a soldier, I served in the casualty unit of the IDF and for me the day of Yom Ha'Zikaron is a day of deep sadness but also one of hope, personal stories, heroism, and true love of Israel and its people all over the world.

As Jews we keep pride in our past and make an effort not to forget our history and common stories that shaped us as a people. There are many ways to commemorate our loved ones that died. As Yitzhak Rabin wrote once: "In Israel, we do not build triumphal arches, and we don't have halls of fame. ... This country knew war, and during the battles has endured great amounts of suffering. ... We have paid the price, and still do. It is a heavy price to pay for the right to stake our claim and to build a home here. And how do we repay that large group of wonderful boys and girls that paid the heavy price for our continued existence? There is no way to repay them. The little

that we, the living, can do to repay those that fell in battle is to remember and to keep their memory alive."

In Charlotte, we try to do exactly that for the past three years. Hebrew High 9th and 10th graders have observed Yom Ha'Zikaron through a very meaningful project with our partnership region in Israel Hadera-Eiron. The project name is The Art of Zikaron - the art of remembering. This year the students connected with bereaved families from our sister city Pardes Chana who have lost loved ones during the wars of Israel. After learning about the lives and deaths of the soldiers, the students created an art project in their memory. The personal connection was made in order to forge a special bond between the youth in Charlotte and Israel's Memorial Day. Connecting with these families and honoring their loved ones on Yom Ha'Zikaron helps the teens to strengthen their connection to Israel and their own Jewish identities. The teenagers will take a significant part in the Yom Ha'Zikaron community wide ceremony, talking about their experience and telling the stories of "their soldiers": Private Yonatan (Yoni) Barns z"l, Staff Sergeant Liron-Chaem Yhuda z"l, Corporal Mordechai (Moti) Cohen z"l, Captain Shay Shalom Cohen z"l, and Sergeant Shlomo Chaem Solomovitch z"l.

Since 1948, more than 22,993 soldiers and civilians have given their lives for Israel. **On Yom Ha'Zikaron, we will come together to honor their memory and commemorate their sacrifice. Please join us on Monday, April 15, 6 PM in Lerner Hall for a special Yom Ha'Zikaron community wide ceremony to help us keep their memory alive.** ✡

JFS Presents Lenore Skenazy

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That's why it was so nice to hear from Irving.

Irving not only remembers what life was like before this fear set in, his first foray into adventure has become a part of his very soul. He shared it with me because it made him who he is. I share it with you because our kids deserve no less.

They don't have to ride the subway by themselves. They could make dinner, or pick a sibling up from school or spend Wednesday afternoons in the park, without a coach, a uniform, and a guaranteed trophy. They deserve a chance to fall and fail and get themselves back up again and come home shout-

ing those magic words: "I did it myself."

And 80 years later, give or take, they'll thank you. ✡

Join Jewish Family Services for a fun and lively discussion with author, columnist, and television host Lenore Skenazy Sunday, April 21, 10 AM-12 noon, www.jfscharlotte.org.

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**Community-Wide
Service for
Yom
Hazikaron
Israel Memorial Day**

**April 15, 2013
6:00 pm
Sam Lerner Center
for Cultural Arts**

www.jewishcharlotte.org
704.944.6757
info@jewishcharlotte.org



יום הזכרון

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Tributes to the 2013 Annual Campaign

The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte thanks and acknowledges the following tributes made Jan. 5-Mar. 8.

2013 Annual Campaign
In memory of Hannah Gurevich
By: Lev and Valentina Alperovich

In memory of Sidney Blumenreich, father of Sue Littauer
By: Jill Balick, Ellen Bottner, Alcen and David Epstein, Ruth and Alan Goldberg, Adrienne and Harvey Gossett, Linda Greenfield and Ira Dunst, Judy and Mel Morganstein, Dale and

Larry Polsky, Jane and Mark Rabinovitz, Linda Seigel and Sue and Kim Worrel; Roz and Jerry, Linda and Ira, Donna and Burt, Robin and Steve and Ellen.

2013 Israel Fund
In memory of Sidney Blumenreich
By: Julie Lerner Levine and Howard Levine, Jenny and Rich Rosenthal

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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