

The Charlotte Jewish Day School Pesach Experience

You know the story well. According to the Book of Exodus, Moshe was born in a time when his people, the Children of Israel, were increasing in number and the Egyptian Pharaoh was worried that they might help Egypt's enemies. Moshe's Hebrew mother, Yocheved, hid him when the Pharaoh ordered all newborn Hebrew boys to be killed. He ended up being adopted into the Egyptian royal family. After killing an Egyptian slave-master, Moshe fled across the Red Sea to Midian where he tended the flocks of Jethro, a priest of Midian on the slopes of Mt. Horeb. After the Ten Plagues were unleashed on Egypt, Moshe led the Exodus of the Hebrew people out of Egypt and across the Red Sea, after which they based themselves at Mount Sinai. It was at this time that Moshe received the Ten Commandments.



into living history museums where teachers give guided tours; students serve as the memorable characters; and the props, sets and special effects make the accounts of Pesach so vivid to the heart and mind.

The trick for the Judaica instructors of Charlotte Jewish Day School is how to bring these stories to life for students and parents alike. With a little creative ingenuity, the Pesach Experience was born.

The first stop on the tour is along a specially crafted Nile River, where we see baby Moshe adrift in a basket as his older sister Miriam looks on. Next, we enter a "hands-on" pyramid building site, where guests are invited to build pyramids out of blocks. This depicts the hard work and enslavement of the Jewish people. Soon,

Moshe is growing older and we find ourselves with Moshe in the desert where he is rescuing a lost lamb. We heard "Hashem" speak to Moshe, who directed him to set the Jewish people free. Next, we are witnesses to the ten plagues. Dioramas, Power Points, Board Games are made by the students in fifth grade depicting these plagues such as water turning to blood; frogs; sick animals; and people with boils to name a few. In response to the plague of the first born, people painted their door frames with blood so that the Angel of Death would "pass over" these children. Next, we experience the first Seder. Guests eat



matzah together quickly as the lamb is being roasted and Egyptian soldiers ready for attack. Not to worry ... Hashem will help the Jewish people. Visitors enter the undersea world of the Red Sea complete with fishes and sound effects. When they arrive on "dry land," they celebrate this miracle with song and dance. Finally, after a long walk through the desert, visitors emerge at the foot of Mount Sinai. Moshe appears amidst thunder and lightning and presents The Ten Commandments.

Students from Temple Beth El, Ohr Hatorah, Ballantyne Jewish Center, and Temple Israel Religious and Hebrew Schools will be



visiting Sunday morning, April 6.

The preschool families are invited to join us on Friday, April 4, from 1-3 PM, religious school students and their teachers on Sunday, April 6, from 8:30 AM-1 PM and the general community on Sunday, April 6, from 1-3 PM.

If you would like to be part of this historical experience, please RSVP at 704-366-3984.

Many thanks to our fine Judaica staff and Donna Lerner for putting this phenomenal exhibit together. ♫

Classrooms are transformed

Community News

Movie Fundraiser to Raise Money and Awareness for The Shalom Park Freedom School

What if 15 years from now a documentary was made about the Shalom Park Freedom School? What would our K-5 scholars recall about their experience at Shalom Park's six-week literacy-based enriching summer program? How did it influence their lives, and how did the program touch the lives of Shalom Park volunteers?

On Thursday May 1, the Shalom Park Freedom School (SPFS) will show a moving documentary at its movie fundraiser at 7 PM in the Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts. Ticket sales and proceeds raised at the event will benefit SPFS which will host its fourth annual six-week literacy-based summer program this June 18-July 30.

The film being screened this year is *From Swastika to Jim Crow*, a one hour PBS documentary that tells the story of how historically black colleges in the south during WWII opened their doors to Jewish refugee scholars from Nazi Germany, and how empathy between the two groups strengthened the bond between teacher and student, colleagues and community.

Aside from a shared experience of persecution, the two communities are shown as partners embracing the powerfulness of a good education and a devoted teacher. Through a series of interviews, photographs, and other striking archival footage, the journey of these two groups is explored. This unfamiliar narrative about Holocaust scholar refugees and historically black colleges will have

special meaning for those of us living in the South.

A brief panel discussion will highlight three unique perspectives about the film and how it relates to the SPFS program. Rabbi Judy Schindler will speak about how the Jewish community and African American community have walked together in their struggles against injustice based on race, religion or ethnicity. Sterling Elementary Principal Beth Wardy will describe the at-risk students who are chosen to attend SPFS and the impact she believes this six week literacy and enrichment program has on the lives of these economically disadvantaged students. The first SPFS Site Coordinator and Duke Divinity School graduate candidate, Kevin Vandiver, will speak about his experience working directly with the SPFS scholars, volunteers, and teen board during the inaugural summer here at Shalom Park.

Tickets to go on sale in April for \$10 at the front desk of the JCC. Light movie refreshments will be served. Come support our Shalom Park Freedom School scholars by watching this inspiring documentary about Jewish refugee scholars and the life-long bonds that were established between them and the historically

black colleges in the south that embraced them.

Please visit www.spfreedom-school.org for more information about how to get involved. ♫



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