

## Completing the Journey

Thanks to the past generosity of thousands of donors across the continent, the Federation movement participated in a modern day Exodus story - the miraculous immigration project that brought the majority of the Jews of Ethiopia to Israel.

Today, the Ethiopian community in Israel is 120,000 strong and in one generation has produced leaders in government, defense, journalism, arts and culture and every facet of Israeli society.

In 2011, the government of Israel made a historic decision to bring the remaining 8,000 Jews in Ethiopia to Israel to reunite them with their families in Israel. A new initiative "Completing the Journey" was established to make this dream a reality.

A few months ago, Asher Seyum, who serves on behalf of the Jewish Agency and the Government of Israel as Consul General to Gondar, Ethiopia, made a quick trip to Charlotte.

Asher is in charge of bringing the last of the remaining Ethiopian Jews to Israel and during his visit, he spoke about his progress, the reorganization of the Gondar pre-Aliyah compound, establishment of a preschool, and development of a full range of informal educational programs for Ethiopian Jews of all ages. Under his leadership, over 6,000 new *olim* (immigrants) have arrived in Israel.



Because of his personal journey, Asher Seyum is uniquely qualified to lead "Completing the Journey." In 1984, at the age of thirteen, he and his family left their village in the Gondar region of Ethiopia. Their journey to Israel was fraught with tragedy, including the imprisonment of Asher's brother and their family's separation from him over the next seven years. In Israel, Asher was a dedicated young student and quickly became the voice of his community. His service in the Israel Defense Forces and his subsequent professional accomplishments distinguished him as an exceptional leader.

In 2005, our community responded generously to Operation Promise with a commitment of just over \$100,000 for the resettlement and absorption of 20,000 Ethiopian Jews. To complete the journey of bringing the remaining 8,000 Ethiopians to Israel, and to

make their dreams a reality, our federation has established a goal of \$18,000.

Please take a moment to consider a donation to bring this exciting chapter in the history of the Jewish people to its conclusion. Pledges to "Completing the Journey" can be made online at [www.jewishcharlotte.org](http://www.jewishcharlotte.org). ☆



# SYNAGOGUES & CONGREGATIONS

## Havurat Tikvah Reviews the Past, Plans for the Future

It may be abnormally hot this summer, but that does not stop us at Havurat Tikvah from working diligently to plan the calendar for the year 5775.

On June 8, we held our annual meeting and received reports on the Havurah's activities from the past year, including included High Holiday and other celebrations, adult education, and social action. The treasurer then gave a report on the Havurah finances. Moving on to planning for next year, we elected the incoming committee leaders and members to continue the aforementioned activities. In addition, there was an open discussion of what is going well, not so well, and how we would like to see Havurat Tikvah develop. The meeting was well attended and effective, and now the Havurah is busy

taking people's ideas into consideration as we prepare for the upcoming year.

Of course, foremost on Havurat Tikvah's thoughts as the new year approaches are the High Holidays, which arrive in late September. The Havurah has several events planned for Rosh Hashanah, Kol Nidre, and Yom Kippur, including services at Avondale Presbyterian Church, luncheons, and gatherings for reflection and repentance.

For more detailed information, please look for Havurat Tikvah's September article in the Charlotte Jewish News.

On September 5, the Havurah will host a Kabbalat Shabbat to welcome everyone

back from the summer. We will enjoy a catered dinner and brief Friday night service. For more information, please visit our website calendar (<http://www.havurattikvah.org/events/calendar/>).

Havurat Tikvah is an affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation, providing a comfortable, family atmosphere where all Jews can feel welcome. If you are interested, we invite you to visit, get to know us, and to become part of our congregation of nearly 60 households.

For more information about any of our activities, check out our website ([www.havurattikvah.org](http://www.havurattikvah.org)). You can also find Havurat Tikvah and Havurat Tikvah Teens on Facebook. If you have any questions about membership or other aspects of Havurat Tikvah, give us a call at 980-225-5330. ☆



Jewish Reconstructionist Communities  
In Association with the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College

## Stay in the Loop with Ballantyne Jewish Center

Here at the Ballantyne Jewish Center we've been working diligently all summer on exciting and innovative programs for the upcoming academic year in Ballantyne and Sun City. Hebrew School, High Holidays, Tashlich Cruise, Chanukah Wonderland, Shabbat Dinners to name a few. Make sure you are in the loop. Subscribe to our emails and you will be the first to find out when things are happening. [www.JewishBallantyne.com](http://www.JewishBallantyne.com) or email [info@JewishBallantyne.com](mailto:info@JewishBallantyne.com).

### Mommy and Me with a Jewish Twist in Ballantyne

A morning out for little ones and their Moms, Dads, or Caregivers. We will sing, dance, play, make a fun craft, and enjoy a snack, all with a Jewish twist. Come on out and join us. Appropriate for ages 0-3. Sibling helpers are welcome.

Monday, August 11, 9:30-10:30 AM at the



Ballantyne Jewish Center, 8632 Bryant Farms Rd. For more info or to RSVP contact Leah Levin [LeahLevin@JewishBallantyne.com](mailto:LeahLevin@JewishBallantyne.com) 704 246 8881 or visit our website [www.JewishBallantyne.com](http://www.JewishBallantyne.com). ☆

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### Applications for the 2015

Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte

Impact and Innovation Fund are now available.

The Jewish Federation's Impact and Innovation Fund distributes grants that are intended to inspire individuals, organizations, synagogues, and agencies to provide innovative and impactful engagement opportunities for the greater Charlotte Jewish community.

For more information or to receive an application, please contact the Federation office, 704.944.6757  
[www.jewishcharlotte.org](http://www.jewishcharlotte.org)