

Twenty-Seven Teens Named to Teen Board for Shalom Park Freedom School

The Shalom Park Freedom School recently selected 27 teens for its Teen Board, which will serve the 2015 summer literacy-based camp at Shalom Park. Teen board members volunteer as school assistants for at least two weeks during the summer and work with CMS 1st-5th graders to boost their literacy skills and enrich their cultural experiences. They learn about how the Free-

dom School program helps to close the academic achievement gap for low-income students, assist with and lead fun activities, and develop meaningful relationships with Freedom School scholars and staff. These rising 10th-12th graders also help with fundraising for the school, planning a book drive and raising funds for Challah for Scholars.

The Shalom Park Freedom

School will be held June 18-July 29. The Shalom Park Freedom School has expanded to serve 80 scholars this summer, up from 50. These scholars are selected from Huntingtowne Farms and Sterling, the elementary schools in faith-based partnerships with Temple Israel and Temple Beth El.

The 2015 Teen Board members include:

*** MacKenzie Albert * Jack Baron * Ian Bodenheimer * Kaylie Brooks * Sarah Choffin * Anna Ditesheim * Anna Doline * Tommy Ecker * Anna Farrell * Kate Frankenberg * Sam Gordon * David Gordon * Lanie Hitt * Amanda Kurtz * Rachel Musa * Victoria Newman * Sam Neumann * Leah Porter * Lindsay Rosenzweig * Max Rosewater * Max Schoenbrun * Siena Serrano * Dana Sheinhaus * Alana Stilitano * M.E. Suris * Ramona Suris * Marissa Uri ***



Shalom Park Freedom School Teen Board Members for 2015.

Rosenwald Movie Fundraiser Supports the Growth of Shalom Park Freedom School

By Amy Lefkof

With 200 people in attendance, Shalom Park Freedom School's 4th annual movie fundraiser, on April 30 at the Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts, featured the documentary Rosenwald, the remarkable story of Jewish philanthropist Julius Rosenwald, President and Chairman of Sears from 1908-1932. Despite not having graduated from high school or college, Rosenwald partnered with Booker T. Washington from the 1910s into the early 1930s to build over 5,000 schools in African-American communities in the rural South.

The documentary also showed Rosenwald's other major philanthropic accomplishments: the building of black YMCAs, funding upcoming African-American artists, painters and performers,

such as Ralph Ellison, Langston Hughes, and Marian Anderson, and funding future scientists and doctors, such as African-American Dr. Charles Drew whose research on the preservation of blood plasma saved the lives of thousands of GIs.

What drove Rosenwald to help the African American community? One factor was that he saw the parallels in the fear of threats and violence confronting both Jews and Blacks: the KKK and Jim Crow threatened black people, and Russia was oppressing Jews with pogroms and discriminatory laws. Another factor was that after an eye opening visit to the Tuskegee Institute, Rosenwald was informed by Booker T. Washington that what was needed most in the rural south were schools for black children, who were otherwise consigned to menial field work. The Rosenwald schools became the rallying cry for education, the heart of these communities.

Emily Zimmern, President of the Levine Museum of the New South, introduced the Rosenwald documentary and made palpable the link between Rosenwald's philosophy of tikkun olam, and Shalom Park Freedom School — where our Jewish community has joined with the communities of Huntingtowne Elementary and Sterling Elementary to prevent summer learning loss by providing a six-week, literacy-based summer program for 80 economically disadvantaged scholars for the last five summers.

If the Shalom Park community can continue to provide an enriching literacy-based summer program for low-income African American and Hispanic scholars, then perhaps these children will grow up to become the next Ralph Ellison, Marian Anderson, or discoverer of a life-saving medicine or medical procedure. This thought was echoed by another speaker that evening, Dr. Monica Rabinovich, Chemistry Professor at UNCC and member of Temple Beth El, who spoke about her experience helping the young scholars create "slimy goop" during the six-week summer program. Rabinovich encouraged others in the audience to donate their time or make financial pledges to Shalom Park Freedom School.

At the fundraising event, the audience was asked by Shalom Park Freedom School Co-Chairs Lisa Garfinkle, Marcia Stern, and Eileen Davis, to make a pledge in support of Shalom Park Freedom School, since the wish of many public school children attending Sterling Elementary and Huntingtowne Farms Elementary is to attend a six-week literacy based summer program here at Shalom Park.

For more information on how to get involved or make a contribution in support of SPFS, please visit the website at spfreedom-school.org. ☆



FCJIC 2015 ANNUAL MEETING

Held on May 17 at Foundation For The Carolinas and attended by more than 150 legacy donors and community leaders



Additional pictures from the event can be found at www.charlottejewishfoundation.org