

Charlotte Jewish Film Festival: Take 2

It was a simple decision 11 years ago – screen a couple of movies over a weekend and see if the community shows any interest. And with that insightful idea, the Charlotte Jewish Film Festival (CJFF) was born.

Over the last decade, the CJFF has become one of the premiere cultural events in the region that now offers year round programming (28 events expected in 2015). While Hadassah and the Levine JCC (LJCC) have provided the incredible support skeleton from which it has worked from, the Charlotte Jewish Film Festival has always been run by an all-volunteer staff (including its director), making its annual growth and success all the more remarkable.

Because of the size, scope, and budget of its programming, the CJFF has taken the next logical step in its development – hiring a paid, part-time director.

After careful consideration, Hadassah and the Levine JCC have decided that the position will fall under the LJCC's Visual and Performing Arts umbrella and be supervised by its director, Susan Cherin Gundersheim. Benjamin Schwartz, who has been involved with the Charlotte Jewish Film Festival since 2013, was recently hired as the CJFF Director under this new organizational model.

"I am very grateful and appreciative of this opportunity" said Schwartz. "Debby Block, Jodi



Former Film Festival directors Benjamin Schwartz, Jeff Turk, and Rick Willenzik.

Greenwald, Jeff Turk, and Rick Willenzik have created this incredible leadership legacy and I am very excited about getting the chance to continue working with the amazing CJFF team. Together, I am quite confident that we will be able to meet the challenges of keeping the Charlotte Jewish Film Festival's positive momentum moving forward."

While the organizational structure is now a little different, the end product will be the same - the CJFF will bring the community films and value added programming that will make you laugh, cry, think and feel.

Please be sure to check out the just released details of the CJFF's 2nd Annual FallFlicks' lineup on page 16 or at charlottejewishfilm.com. ☆



Jewish Federation OF GREATER CHARLOTTE



HADASSAH



School

The Giver - and Receivers - of Jewish Tradition

This is an excerpt from a speech given by Amy Vitner, President of the Charlotte Jewish Day School Board of Directors, at Graduation.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, it is my honor to welcome you here tonight to the Charlotte Jewish Day School's Graduation Ceremony in celebration of the Class of 2015. Not only do we celebrate our 22 graduates, we celebrate the many accomplishments of our alumni; we celebrate our parents who entrust us with their children every day, and for the second year in a row achieved 100% participation in annual fund giving; we celebrate our 48 legacy donors who have made an incredible commitment to secure the future sustainability of our school; we celebrate our PTO for coordinating fun and engaging activities for our families; and last but not least, we celebrate our teachers who impart knowledge, critical thinking skills, and a Judaic foundation that will last a life time.

If you have read the book *The Giver* by Lois Lowry, you are familiar with the story of a society where its citizens lead a very peaceful, content, and functional existence with no war or suffering. There is a catch. To maintain this existence, centuries of knowledge, history, art, music, and any information without a practical purpose has been eliminated. Even eyesight has been altered to see only black and white. For the people of this world, life is pretty boring, but nobody knows what they are missing.

There is one exception, and that is The Giver, who serves as the repository for all of humanity's passions, history, and knowledge, both good and bad, and is responsible for passing all of this information on to a single person known as The Receiver. As the Giver begins to transfer information to The Receiver, something begins to happen. The Receiver begins to feel more deeply. Instead of seeing in black and white, the Receiver begins to see in color. For the Receiver of the world's knowledge and history, life takes on a whole new level of significance and purpose.

(Continued on page 25)



THE 1ST JEWISH INFANT CARE IN CHARLOTTE FOR AGES 6 WEEKS+



The most important decision you'll make is who will care for your baby. You can feel secure knowing that your baby has a warm, nurturing Jewish environment that feels like home. We offer:

- Low teacher-child ratios
- Teachers with degrees in Early Childhood Development or a related field
- An environment filled with love, stimulation and care

JPsonSardis.org

Our Full Day Infant Care is now accepting applications for Summer 2016!

★★★★★

JPS is a NC Licensed 5-Star Preschool, serving ages 6 weeks - PreK.



For more information, contact: Dedee Goldsmith, M.A.
704.364.8395 | dedee@jpsonsardis.org
6619 Sardis Road | Charlotte, NC 28270

