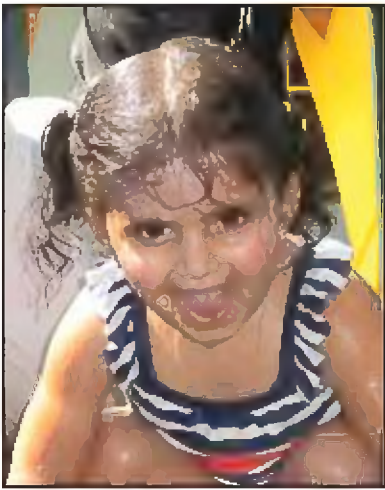


Summer Fun at the Jewish Preschool on Sardis



Micka making a splash



Music time for Mason and Jacob



Sarah enjoying bubbles with Atomz Lab



Gavi, Lucie, Mussi, Asher, Porter and Malcolm in the bounce house

CJDS: The Giver of Jewish Tradition

(Continued from page 20)

This seems to be quite a precarious position for society to give a single person the sole responsibility for all of the world's knowledge. But it struck me that in our own Jewish culture, we tend to do precisely that. Deep understanding and study of Torah, the Hebrew language, customs, and rituals are primarily the responsibility of Rabbis and a few educated Jews. Many of us self-label ourselves as "cultural" Jews, limiting our Jewish knowledge to the major holidays and Bubbe's kugel recipe. We do our best to pass on our cultural traditions, but we often do so without the context or understanding of the meaning behind them. Over time, these traditions begin to fade.

At CJDS, we are reversing this trend as our children return home with the knowledge that brings meaning and context to old traditions whether it's leading a Passover Seder, lighting of Shabbat candles, or explaining the weekly Parsha. This year over 30 children participated in the reading of Tehillim after school. Kids voluntarily wanting to stay after school to read prayers? Why? Well, when asked that question, one student responded without hesitating, "I have so much in my life. This is just one thing I can do to say thank you to God." In another example, a CJDS alum reported back how her Birthright experience was different than many of her peers on that same trip. The feelings that she had in visiting the Kotel and other holy sites were incredibly meaningful in a way the others could not grasp. She attributed her elevated

experience to the knowledge that she received from her time at CJDS. Every year, Mariashi receives dozens of emails, letters, and stories of how CJDS has had an impact on individuals, families, and within our Jewish community. To paraphrase Justin Timberlake, "We're bringing Jewish back."

Over and over we see that CJDS students do not just function as Jews going through the motions, but experience Judaism in full blown high definition color. And even better, while tonight we celebrate our own 22 Receivers of knowledge, we also celebrate that our graduates have proven themselves as worthy Givers ensuring that this knowledge will be passed on.

My hope is that the gift of knowledge that our children have received continues to be nurtured. We are fortunate to live in a vibrant Jewish community with excellent synagogues, youth programs, and activities that allow for many Jewish experiences that are both meaningful and fun. Active participation in this community will not only build on the foundational knowledge received while at CJDS, but will provide a platform for your children to share their knowledge with others.

So tonight, in addition to honoring our Graduates, we celebrate the cycle of the receiving and giving of knowledge. To the class of 2015 – Mazel Tov! We know that you have been given the tools to be successful in whatever direction life takes you and we know you will always make us proud. ☆

Women's News

Hadassah's Israeli Products Fair Win a Trip to Israel!

The 2nd Annual Israeli Products Fair will be presented by the Charlotte Chapter of Hadassah on Sunday, November 22, from 10 AM-2 PM in the

Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts, Main Street, and the Weinberg Activity Center of the Levine JCC on Shalom Park.

The fair will feature exclusively made in Israel products, fantastic raffles prizes, including a trip to Israel for two, and much more. Stay tuned for more information on how you can enter and win.

Want a table to sell your Israeli products? Do you want to volunteer at the fair? Do you want to be recognized as a local business sponsor in our vendor corner? Contact Stacy Baum at 704-808-0423 or by email at schree@carolina.rr.com for more information.

We expect more than 500 people to attend this year, so don't miss out. Be part of a movement to promote and support Israel. ☆



Pre-planning your funeral expenses is ...
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