

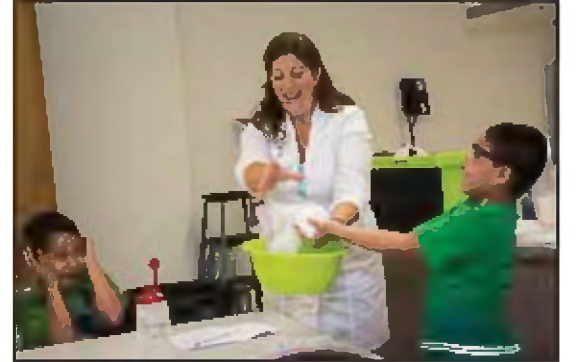
Shalom Park Freedom School Gives 80 Scholars a Summer They Won't Forget

There were extra shouts of joy at Shalom Park Freedom School's morning pep rally "Harambee" one day this summer. The scholars and friends of SPFS surprised volunteer and resident photographer Alan Goldberg with a birthday celebration. Alan, who turned 90 on July 11, was "toasted" by several scholars who read anecdotes of some of Alan's many life experiences — from meeting General Patton in World War II to the first time he met his wife Ruth. Alan has volunteered with SPFS since it began five years ago, using his photography skills to capture the fun and memories of Freedom School. From the sweltering heat at Cane Creek to indoors at the JCC, Alan, along with Temple Israel's Ralph Besnoy, has been

there to document the scholars' experiences at camp. He has snapped away at the children taking home their first challah ever and captured them getting off the bus the first day of Freedom School and giving their site director a "chai five."



Freedom School scholars enjoy swimming on a field trip to Cane Creek Park.



Freedom School scholars spent an afternoon learning about science and enjoying the theme "Blow it Up!" thanks to Atomz Lab.

they say a picture speaks a thousand words," SPFS Co-chair Marcia Stern said. "Our pictures speak more than a thousand words. They tell the story of the Freedom School here. You are a part of Freedom School." From

there, Marcia presented Alan with his very own SPFS T-shirt, a "billion dollar chocolate bar," and a birthday cake to feed all.

For his part, Alan said he's enjoyed watching SPFS grow and flourish every year. "This is the best group we've ever had," he said, referring to the 80 scholars. Every time he volunteers, the kids recognize him and hug him. "A wonderful feeling — just look at them," he said. In addition to the hugs, the best part about SPFS according to Alan? "Seeing the spirit

and interns, 27 teens served at the camp. These rising 10th-12th graders worked as school assistants for at least two weeks at the camp, helping scholars boost their literacy skills and assisting with daily activities. They also helped with fundraising for the school, planned a book drive and raised funds for Challah for Scholars. "Being on the board gave me an opportunity to participate in a great program that really benefits these young scholars," said Ian Bodenheimer, a first-time teen board member who spent four weeks at the camp. "I thoroughly enjoyed making meaningful bonds with the scholars, other board members and interns. I look forward to continuing my involvement."

More than 45 individuals and organizations volunteered their time to provide afternoon enrichment activities for the scholars that ranged from an interactive drum circle to making "snow" in a science experiment. Community volunteers chaperoned off-site trips to Discovery Place, Ray's Splash Planet, Cane Creek Park, theater performances and bowling. Twenty-eight people served as guest readers each morning.

And others helped ensure SPFS had the supplies needed for the camp. From 2,400 snacks and drinks to 1,200 books to 88 bathing suits and towels, SPFS is a true example each summer of the Charlotte Jewish community engaging in Tikkun Olam and giving children a truly memorable summer experience.

For more information about SPFS or to make a donation, visit www.spfreedomsschool.org. ✪

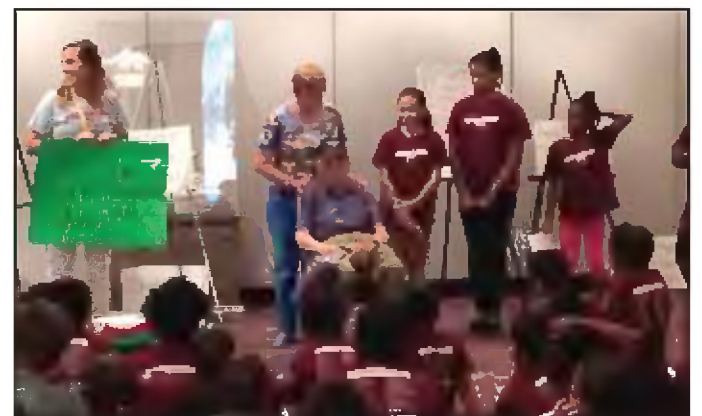


SPFS scholar and teen board members Dana Sheinhaus, Rachel Musa, Lindsay Rosenzweig, and Ian Bodeheimer cool off with a treat.

of these young children — their involvement, their happiness. And the fact they are learning along with it."

Alan is one of the many 150 volunteers who helped make SPFS a success this year. This summer marked the fifth time that eight Shalom Park agencies have pulled together to provide a six-week, literacy-based camp for economically disadvantaged children. The camp expanded to serve 80 scholars, up from 50 in previous years. These scholars are selected from Huntingtowne Farms and Sterling Elementary, the two schools that have faith-based partnerships with Temple Israel and Temple Beth El.

In addition to the 11 Freedom School staff members, **FREEDOM SCHOOL PARTNERS** Shalom Park Freedom School



The birthday presentation made to Alan Goldberg.

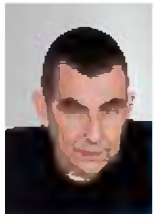
SAVE THE DATE

NOVEMBER 4, 2015

Ari Shavit*

7:00 PM

Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts



*Ari Shavit is the author of the critically-acclaimed, *New York Times* bestseller *My Promised Land: the Triumph and Tragedy of Israel*. An outspoken columnist for *Haaretz*, Israel's newspaper of record, and a prominent commentator on Israeli Public Television, Shavit has become one of the strongest voices in the nation's public arena. He challenges the dogmas of both Right and Left with his unique insights into the roles of Israel and Zionism in the 21st century.

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