

What are Your Dreams, Hopes, and Aspirations?

By Brian Yesowitch, Hebrew Cemetery Association President

As Martha and I watch our children and their friends grow, we have hopes, dreams, and aspirations that their lives will be as productive and prosperous as ours have been. I think many of you have similar hopes, dreams, and aspirations for your own lives, the lives of your loved ones, and perhaps even for society.

These are not abstract concepts. Hoping, dreaming, and aspiring are very Jewish concepts that have been ingrained in our religious culture from the very beginning of our tradition. Abraham took inspiration from God when he was told "Lech L'cha: Go forth from your land and your birthplace and your father's house to the land I will show you. I will make of you a great nation and I will bless you. I will make your name great and you shall be a blessing." Genesis 12:1-2

That turned to aspiration when every minute of Abraham's life was dedicated to God's charge to lead by example and become a great nation.

Isaac embodies the hope of our people. Abraham placed his son, Isaac, on the altar as a sacrifice, and yet Isaac was spared due to Abraham's obedience to God. Moreover, during Isaac's conflicts with the Philistines, we see Isaac tenaciously face adversity with hard work and fortitude. While the first two wells Isaac digs are blocked by the Philistines, the last and third well is not contested. Isaac names it "Rehoboth", meaning "spaciousness," and declares, "The Lord has made room for us that we may be fruitful in the land." Genesis 26:22

Isaac's hopeful optimism helps the Jewish tradition endure through a transient, yet difficult period.

Jacob had dreams. The significant dream we all know about happened at one of the lowest points of Jacob's life. He ran away from the anger of his brother, Esau, and his mother suggested he live with his uncle, Laban. While in the wilderness, he dreams he sees "a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. There above stood the Lord,

and God says: 'I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying.'" Genesis 28:12-13

For the first dozen or so Jewish families who lived in Charlotte, their hopes, dreams, and aspirations were to create a Jewish community that could stand on its



own, without the support and leadership from the established Jewish communities of Charleston and Wilmington. The Jewish families' first step toward their dream was to found a Cemetery in 1867 to serve the Jewish settlers of the Piedmont and beyond. Today, the leadership and volunteers of the Hebrew Cemetery Association share its founders' aspirations that our Charlotte Jewish community will endure.

You, too, can be a part of those founders' dreams. Membership to our Hebrew Cemetery Association is an affordable \$72 annually. Pre-planning your funeral is a gift, which reduces not only costs, but also stress. You can have peace of mind, knowing that your wishes will be carried out. Contact our Director, Sandra Goldman, to receive information on plot availability and pricing.

Have you considered adding the Hebrew Cemetery to your estate planning? Our Director, Sandra Goldman, can walk you through the process of turning an existing financial vehicle into a bequest to support the long term maintenance and upkeep of our community's oldest institution, one that continues to serve the Jewish people of this region. My wife, Martha, and I have made our commitments along with nearly 30 other individuals and families. I hope you will join us.

Additionally, our community supports needy individuals with reduced cemetery fees during their time of loss. You can make a

contribution of any amount to the Steinberger Funeral Assistance Fund on our website, www.hebrewcemetery.org, or by contacting our Director Sandra Goldman at 704-576-1859 or director@hebrewcemetery.org. Don't forget to "like" our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/Hebrew-Cemetery. Our #Throwback-

Thursday posts have gotten so popular; they will be featured in the October issue of *Charlotte Magazine*.

Hopes, dreams, and aspirations – the biblical patriarchs had them. Our community's founders had them. Our Association leaders and members hope your dreams and aspirations will come to fruition in



the year to come. Shana Tova U'M'tukah. May you and your loved ones be blessed with a good and sweet new year. ☆

Thursday, Oct. 22 & Friday, Oct. 23

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Mond Bat Mitzvah at Shalom Park

(Continued from previous page)

system was great. We had a photo montage running on the floor-to-ceiling screen throughout the night.

Jay, Limor, and the rest of the Shalom Park staff were very helpful and responsive from start to finish, answering questions, handling security, and managing the event. I would like to thank the staff of Shalom Park for helping to make the evening so special. I would definitely recommend the Foundation of Shalom Park to host an event.

For more information about how to plan your next event at

Shalom Park, contact Jay Parton, Operations Manager, Foundation of Shalom Park, at 704-944-6842 or jparton@shalomcharlotte.org. Jay can share with you the many Shalom Park amenities available to make your upcoming event a success. ☆



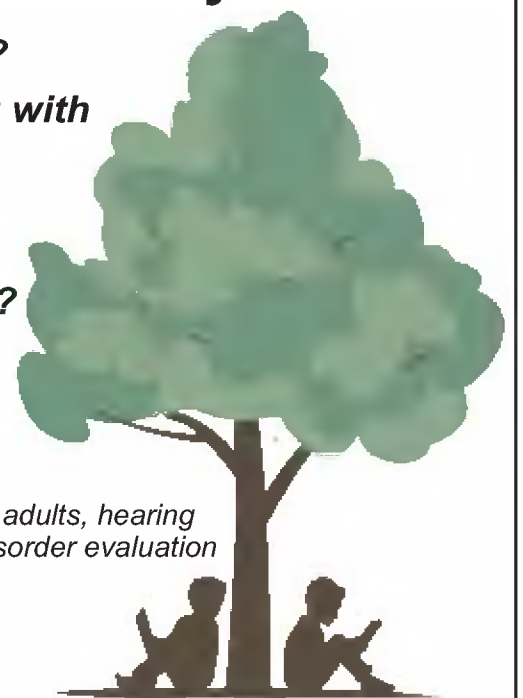
Does someone important in your life:

- ◆ Appear to listen but not hear?
- ◆ Have difficulty understanding with background noise?
- ◆ Have difficulty following conversations in a group?
- ◆ Speak louder than necessary?
- ◆ Experience an annoying ringing in the ears?

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