

# BUILDING AND STRENGTHENING JEWISH IDENTITY

## Jewish Federation Scholarships and Subsidies Available for Jewish Experiences

It is difficult to measure the value of a Jewish education in numbers or in charts. How do you quantify a child's smile when he shows his mother the clay menorah he made? How do you evaluate the pride a man feels when his granddaughter recites the "Shema"? How do you measure the warmth of Shabbat candles lit by your own teenager?

Yet, many studies have demonstrated the tremendous impact of a day school, Hebrew school, Jewish camp, or trip to Israel on fostering Jewish identity. There is a general consensus that each activity, in its own way, brings Jews closer to our collective roots in both history and Torah. All these formal and informal educational activities share a common love and respect for our common ancestry, history, religion, and culture.

As a community, Jews share and embrace the value of Jewish education and recognize the many forms education may take. To that end, the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte supports a wide variety of educational opportunities, enabling individuals and families to discover for themselves how best to learn about our heritage and foster identity and affiliation with Jewish communal life.

The Jewish Federation is proud

to provide scholarships and special grants for all types of educational initiatives enabling parents to send their children to summer camps as well as to participate in Israel Experience programs. Nothing makes Jewish identity and history come alive for young

people like an Israel Experience Program or a Jewish summer camp.

*Special thanks to Bill and Patty Gorelick and Harry and Gloria Lerner for their ongoing support and generosity. ☆*



Larry Horowitz, CLU, ChFC

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### Available Subsidies for Jewish Experiences

**Jewish Experience Fund:** Need based subsidies are available to local Jewish youth meeting at least one of the following criteria:

- Household gross income not to exceed \$75,000
- Change in household circumstances within the last six months necessitating financial assistance (ie: medical concerns, job loss, change in family status, etc.)
- Multiple children attending camps and/or Jewish programs
- Extenuating chronic family circumstances (ie: special needs children; disability, etc.)

For an application or more information, please contact Jewish Family Services at 704-364-6594.

**Gorelick Teens to Israel Fund:** Subsidies are available to local Jewish teens ages 13-19 traveling to Israel on a Federation approved program.

**Gloria and Harry Lerner Family Fund:** Subsidies are available to local Jewish young adults between the ages of 21-30 traveling to Israel on a Federation approved program.

For more information, please contact Tal Stein, Director of Israel Affairs and Community Relations, 704-944-6751 or [tal.stein@jewishcharlotte.org](mailto:tal.stein@jewishcharlotte.org).

## Purim in Israel

By Inbal Ozeri, Community Shlichah

Keeping with tradition, the Midreshet Sde Boker environmental Adloyada Parade was held on Purim, led by the students of the High School for Environmental Education.

On Purim, students of the high-school for environmental education led the environmental "green" Adloyada held again this year at Midreshet Sde Boker. The event took place on Saturday, March 15, 2014, in cooperation with the Ramat Hanegev Regional Council. (Taken from: <http://rmg.org.il/en/?p=17204>)

Why am I mentioning this article? Because I was there that year. Not only I was there, out of all the 9th-12th graders, we were the ones that had been mentioned the most. Why? Since we picked a topic that made everyone feel a connection. Reporters came from all over the world to talk about the

10th graders from that boarding school in the south of Israel that participated in an amazing event that happened every year, was always green, and always made everything from recycled materials, but that year the subject was "green," too.

### Café Ivrit

The monthly Café Ivrit is still on every month. Last month we had an amazing Israeli cooking at the Moishe House. You're more than welcome to look it up on Facebook under the name "Café Ivrit - Hebrew Coffee" or contact me. This month it is going to be at Shalom Park.

I would love to get to know you better. I love meeting new people, making new friends, grabbing a cup of coffee, and just chatting about things that matter, anything about Israel, my story, Hebrew, etc.

Please feel free to contact me [Shaliach@jewishcharlotte.org](mailto:Shaliach@jewishcharlotte.org) or



Inbal dressed up for the environmental Purim parade at Midreshet Sde Boker.

704-944-6784 if you want to.

I look forward to hearing from you. ☆

### The Purim parade.

