

The Shade is Coming to CJP - and So Much More

Thanks to the generosity of our Annual Fund donors new construction is underway on our playground. With the hot months coming we will be adding new shade structures on each of the playgrounds. One of the main focuses of early Childhood Education to bring the classroom learning environment outdoors. In addition to the two new shade structures we will be enhancing the playground with the following:

- * musical components: including bongo drums, merry xylophone, lady bug kettle drum, and a glockenspiel
- * mud kitchen
- * chalk board area
- * renovating the hill slide

One of the components we will be adding to our preschool playground is a mud kitchen. In the article, "Making a Mud Kitchen for Mud Day" by Jan White and Menna Godfrey, the authors, state: "A mud kitchen or café includes elements of both the much-loved domestic corner and baking from indoor play, which are then hugely enriched through the special nature of being outside. Bringing a friend a cup of tea or mixing a cake is serious play for young children." The children at CJP will have the opportunity to engage in the following actions in our new mud kitchen.

Filling – pouring – emptying –

transferring – mixing – stirring – whisking – frothing – scooping – ladling – handling – molding – patting – smoothing – mark-making – throwing – splatting – splashing – sharing out – serving – foraging – selecting – picking – collecting – gathering – garnishing – shredding – crushing – mashing – grinding – measuring – adding – brewing – sieving – filtering – separating – pipetting – and decanting!

Construction will be completed in May. With appreciation and gratitude to our parents, alumni, friends, grandparents, and staff for their generosity and support in our continued mission of Learn, Grow, Connect which means lots more learning on our CJP playground. ☆



Charlotte Jewish Preschool
LEARN • GROW • CONNECT

After All, Tomorrow is Another Yom

By Esther D. Kustanowitz

In May, the Jews have three "Yoms" (days). Not in the literal sense; Jewish months have 29-30 days each month. But this month, three days merit their own special names: Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Memorial Day), Yom HaZikaron (Memorial Day), and Yom Ha'Atzmaut (Israel Independence Day). All three are late additions to Jewish observance, having been instituted over the last half century or more to commemorate events since World War II. But the latter two "Yoms" are observed consecutively and constitute a swing across the emotional divide between extreme sadness and extreme happiness.

This May 10 is Yom HaZikaron, the memorial day for those who have died in Israel's wars. Throughout the country, a siren sounds; wherever they are, Israel's citizens stand quietly for the duration of the siren. Everything stops. Local synagogues and cultural centers hold memorial services. Radio broadcasts center on ceremonies all over the country in memory of the fallen. They were all someone's children, and died so that Israel could be free and peaceful.

The very next day, May 11, is Yom Ha'Atzmaut, a day of celebration. Israel Independence Day is marked as an official holiday;

there is no school, and jubilant students take the day to frolic in the parks of their country, participating in barbecues, dancing, and enjoying their day off.

What are we to make of such a rapid emotional switch over a two-day period?



Esther D. Kustanowitz

The Talmud tells a story of four rabbis who are walking in Jerusalem. They happen upon the ruined heaps of the holy Temple, which are desolate, and three of them begin to cry. The fourth, Rabbi Akiva, laughs instead. The other three ask, Why are you laughing when the Temple has been destroyed, as God had promised it would be? Rabbi Akiva explains that if the first part of God's promise, that the Temple is in ruins, has come true, then assuredly the second part of God's promise, that the Temple will be restored to its former glory, will also come to pass.

Today, Israel suffers daily casualties. In this latest round of personal attacks on city streets, young children, nursing mothers, elderly immigrants, tourists, residents, and visitors are all un-uniformed, unprepared silent soldiers, who don't even know they've enlisted until they are wounded or worse.

A lot can happen in a few months, even more from year to year. But the future can turn on a dime, in an instant, in a heartbeat. The transition from Yom HaZikaron, Memorial Day, to Yom Ha'Atzmaut, Independence Day, teaches us that although the pages of our history, whether tragic or joyous, are bound together in chronological order, the book always has room for more pages. If there is tragedy and suffering one day, we have to trust that there will be joy and redemption another.

As Scarlett O'Hara might have said, "Tomorrow is another Yom." ☆

Esther D. Kustanowitz is a contributing writer for The Jewish Journal. She penned this article while she was director of publications at the Jewish Theological Seminary.

2016 Summer Tennis Camps!

Junior CRUSH Tennis Camp

Ages 6-11

Focuses on tennis basics, fundamentals, and an enjoyable introduction to tennis.

Teen CRUSH Tennis Camp

Ages 12-16

Focuses on stroke production, conditioning, rally skills and match play.

Week 1: Jun 13*-17 *Shavuot

Week 2: Jun 20-24

Week 3: Jun 27-Jul 1

Week 4: Jul 5-8

There will be a break for lunch/pool each day of camp.

Jr. Team CRUSH Tennis Camp

Ages 9-14

Open only to players participating in our Jr. Team Tennis program in the spring or fall. No beginner players.

Week 9: August 8-12 • 9am-2pm

Please visit our website for details & pricing.



Participants can sign up weekly as a full day or half day participant, or on a per day basis.



Levine JCC
Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte
Charlotte

charlottejcc.org • 704-944-6748 • gregory.oconnor@charlottejcc.org