

SYNAGOGUES & CONGREGATIONS

One Torah's Journey

Every Torah tells a story. From the practiced hand of an expert scribe inking each letter to countless aliyot and reverent kisses of worshippers, every Torah has a history and a journey.

The journey of a Torah now gratefully embraced by Temple Solel in Fort Mill, SC, started in New Castle, PA, at Temple Hadar Israel which has been engaged with the Jewish Community Legacy Project. JCLP is a resource for small congregations outside of metropolitan areas that have an aging population and dwindling leadership and acts as a liaison between congregational leadership and a variety of partners to focus on short-term sustainability and long-term planning.

New Castle is situated in what

was once a vibrant industrial part of Western Pennsylvania. Hadar Israel came into existence in 1997 as a result of the merger of the city's two synagogues, both with long histories dating to the turn of the twentieth century. The Jewish population of New Castle began to decline in the 1960s along with that of the general population, as children and grandchildren left the area in search of opportunity.

One objective of JCLP, which does not charge for its services, is to consider how to disperse ritual objects among appropriate recipients, including Torahs.

A founding member of Temple Solel, Al Rogat, initiated a request for a possible Torah transfer through Merry Lugasy, of the Union for Reform Judaism. David Sarnat, president of JCLP, received via Lugasy a heartfelt letter written in mid-August from the leadership of Temple Solel. The letter articulated - through words and pictures - the need for a Torah to take the place of one that had been on



Shelley Pawlyk, Carole Schwartz Cohen, James Fox, and Al Rogat

loan to the young congregation. President James Fox and Vice President Shelley Pawlyk said in this letter that Temple Solel, founded in 2012, was growing and passionate about the practice of Judaism but the community was not yet able to afford their own Torah.

Sarnat brought the request to the attention of Temple Hadar Israel President Sam Bernstine and things happened very quickly. "One of our big concerns," says Bernstine, "is to make sure the significant objects that have served us for 100 years can be shared with Jews globally."

Quite coincidentally, Hadar Israel members Carole Schwartz Cohen and her son would be not far from Fort Mill when they drove to the Charlotte, NC area

over Labor Day weekend. She agreed to provide special transportation and her daughter Cindy, who lived in the area, would make the final delivery. The Torah was wrapped most carefully and a meeting point designated.

September 5 dawned bright and sunny. Emotions ran high among the receiving delegation from Temple Solel as they accepted the precious gift of their new Torah.

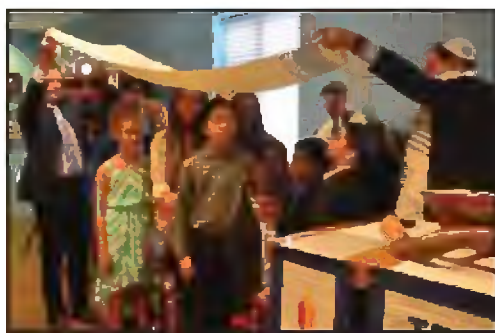
Several weeks later, other members of Temple Hadar Israel felt the pull of the Torah just before they were to travel to Savannah, GA. More arrangements were made and a gracious lunch shared in Fort Mill. The liveliness of Temple Solel impressed the Pennsylvanians and they were especially delighted to see the Torah, which had been lovingly cleaned and preserved by Temple Solel congregants, in its new ark. "We can all feel especially proud

for making this generous gift to a well-meaning congregation," said Beverly Greenberg in an email to her fellow congregants. "We will be forever connected to Temple Solel and Fort Mill."

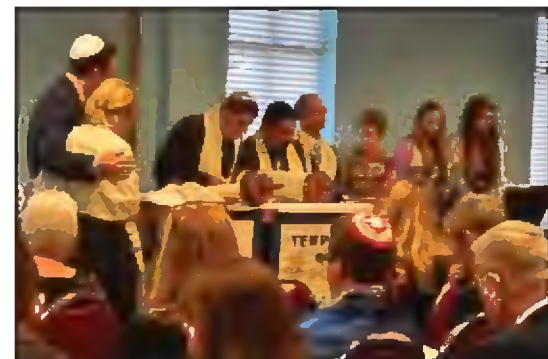
They are all also forever connected to Beit Centrum Ki Tov in Warsaw, Poland, as this new Progressive congregation received the donation of a Torah from Hadar Israel last spring. "Thanks to the guidance of the JCLP, placing these Torahs with these congregations is our way of extending the life of Judaism in New Castle and keeping Hadar Israel alive," says Sam Bernstine.

When they heard about the arrival of the Torah, Scott and Terry Lange of Temple Solel recalled

(Continued on page 27)



Next Generation of Temple Solel children under the chuppah standing in front of ark



Temple President, James Fox, reading from the new Torah standing next to Russ Cobe, lay leader.

Giving Thanks!



SOAR

special olympics athletic retreat

For the past 16 years, the Levine JCC has hosted and provided a free week of camp for Special Olympics. The 16th Annual Camp SOAR was another overwhelming success! **For that, we thank all of our Volunteers and Sponsors** for your invaluable contributions. You have captured the unique spirit that makes Camp SOAR a wonderful experience for campers and volunteers alike. We are grateful for your commitment and hope you will join us again next year. Mark your calendar for **June 12-16, 2017**. Camp Soar is a week-long, free camp for athletes with special needs.

366 & 450

athletes & volunteers

participated this June. The extraordinary dedication and effort it takes to make the week successful is awe-inspiring...

- SPONSORS -





MORE FUN FACTS!

- 240,000
▶ BOWLING PINS knocked down!

- 3,600
▶ BINGO prizes donated and won!

- 1,520
▶ slices of PIZZA consumed!

- 350
▶ mini-BIRDHOUSES decorated!


"Everything is **POSITIVE**, everything is **UPLIFTING**.
It's because of our volunteers and the community and the athletes that we are able to do what we do." - BOB BOWLER, CAMP DIRECTOR






PARTICIPATING VENDORS & ORGANIZATIONS

- Bank of America
- Duke Energy
- LPL Financial
- Family Dollar
- Mecklenburg Swim Association
- Area High Schools
- Curious George DJ Service
- Steve Langley Entertainment
- Papa Johns
- pi marketing
- Charlotte Soccer Club