

# School

## L'Dor VaDor: Grandparents Participate with Preschoolers at CJP

By Rebecca Weiner, *Judaica Specialist*

Every February at the Charlotte Jewish Preschool we look forward to welcoming some of our most important visitors of the year –



Three generations enjoying Shabbat together on Grandparents Day. From left to right: Francine Frank, Alfred Frank, Steve Frank with granddaughter Nora Amo in the center.

grandparents. Our student's grandparents come from near and far to spend the morning learning with (and from) their grandchildren. It's also a time for grandparents to go back to preschool themselves as they participate in morning routines and activities that demonstrate how much their grandkids have learned this year.

Our students proudly walk their grandparents or special visitors to their classroom where they can show off their work that teachers have on display. As visitors settle into their grandchild's classroom,

teachers lead a very special circle time with everyone. Some teachers even prepare a song for the students to sing for their grandparents. After circle time, our students and their visitors work together on a craft and create something together before going to our weekly Shabbat service.

Shabbat is a high-energy Judaic experience that our students share with their grandparents. They excitedly sing every word in our service, giving their visitors the opportunity to kvell at all they have learned about being Jewish. From Bim Bam to Oseh Shalom students are confidently participating in the service that Miss Patty and Morah Becca lead each Friday, except this time they have guests to participate alongside them.

So, what makes Grandparents Day so special? Aside from having a fun time with their grandkids for a morning, as Jews we have a strong obligation to honor our elders. We are commanded in Leviticus 19:32, "You shall rise before the aged and show deference to the old." God demands that we honor the life experiences of those who came before us by showing them respect. What does that respect look like? At the CJP, def-

erence to our elders happens when they walk through our doors and we can honor them through welcoming them into our classrooms and guiding their participation with their grandchildren throughout the morning. Furthermore, Judaism emphasizes the Judaic value of *l'dor vador*, from generation to generation. Traditions are passed from our grandparents to our parents and then to us, which we then pass on to our children. On Grandparents Day, our preschoolers demonstrate *l'dor vador*. As they cover their eyes to sing the Shema in circle time and happily engage in our Shabbat service, each student is displaying

the strong Jewish continuity that their grandparents so greatly desire.

Our hope is that Grandparents Day inspires older generations to continue to be involved in the Jewish education of their kids and grandkids. While at CJP our students learn daily blessings and developmentally appropriate Judaic values, families are responsible for reinforcing these concepts and practices in the home. We model that kids understand and can participate in Jewish practices and rituals from a very early age, and show grandparents how they can be involved in their progeny's Jewish education. After all, our

parents and grandparents are the only links we have to our family's traditions from the past. It is from them that we learn our Bubbe's brisket recipe for Pesach, or the secret ingredient in the family Challah recipe. At the CJP, we strive to not only involve Jewish families in Jewish activities at our school and on Shalom Park, but to provide a bridge between school and home so that individual families are empowered to provide the foundation for Jewish practices in each of their homes and continue traditions set forth by our ancestors. ☆

## Legacy Story: The Cyglers

(Continued from page 5)

throughout the weekdays, I was now able to observe Shabbat and attend synagogue regularly. I became involved in our synagogue, Temple Israel Center of White Plains serving on the Board of Trustees, co-chairing High Holiday Seating for fifteen years and actively engaging in Lifelong Learning.

In 2008, we began considering a move in pursuit of a retirement lifestyle. We didn't know much about Charlotte, nor did we know anyone who was more than a "friend of a friend" but our first impressions were positive and we became excited to join the community. We waited until our two children were finished with school and moved in the middle of 2011. From a Jewish perspective, Charlotte gave us what we were looking for and more. Temple Israel

provided us with a social, spiritual connection which was an important part of our transition to the city and the South. Shalom Park was a key selling point.

In the past five years, we have met many wonderful friends and Temple Israel has become family. We have found the right place for us and have been embraced by this community. We have also tried to welcome others in the same way that others welcomed us.

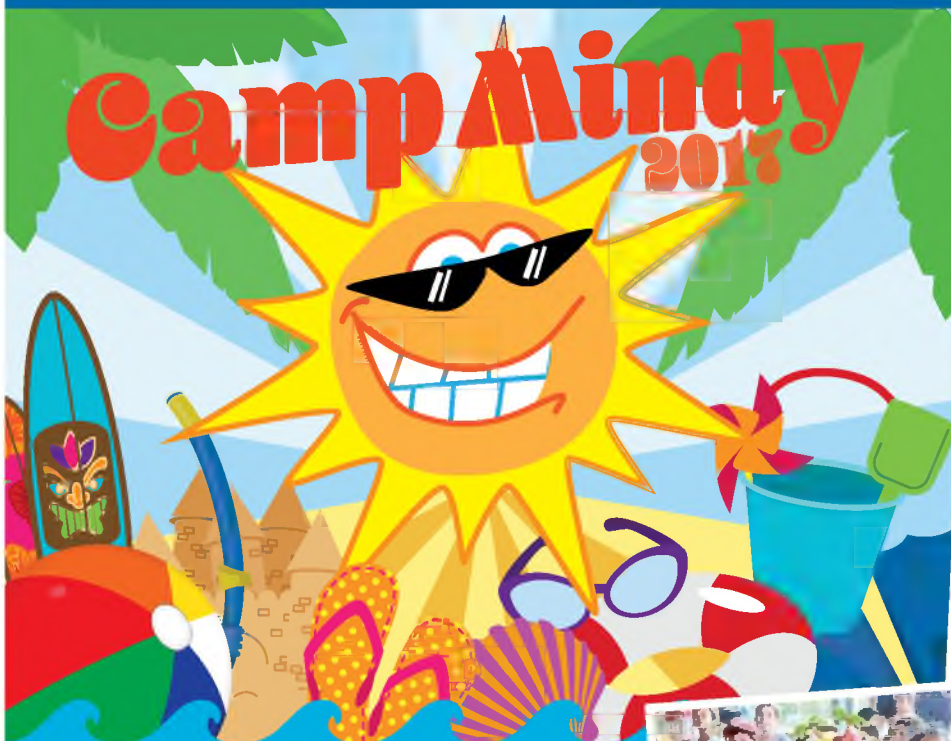
Leaving a legacy gift is a great way for us to give back to Charlotte. We hope to continue to provide the young people of today and tomorrow with the same opportunities that we were lucky enough to experience. This is another way for us to ensure the continued vibrancy of Temple Israel and Jewish life in Charlotte. It is very important for us that our Jewish community and all Jewish communities stay strong. ☆

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