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L'Chaim Charlotte Jewish Festival set for Sunday, May 17

Second Annual Event Grows to Include Judaic Art, More Diverse Food

L'Chaim Charlotte, a festival showcasing Jewish heritage, culture and faith, has expanded this year to include more educational exhibits, Judaic artisans, a greater variety of foods, and a special exhibit commemorating the 50th anniversary of the founding of Israel.

The event will be held on Sunday, May 17, from noon to 5 PM at Shalom Park, 5007 Providence Road. There will be no admission charge, although a \$1 donation per person is encouraged.

The Jewish Community Relations Committee (JCRC) of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte presents the festival as an educational outreach and community building project. "Our goal was simply to bring Jews and non-Jews together to celebrate and learn more about Jewish culture and heritage," said Bobbi Bernstein, honorary co-chair of the event with Shelton Gorelick.

Changes in the format are in response to feedback from the inaugural L'Chaim festival, which was held in the fall of 1996. Despite only four months of lead time for planning and a limited budget, the first festival drew more than 3,000 and was well



received and supported in the community.

Organizers shifted the event to the spring to avoid scheduling conflicts in the fall and to take advantage of the beautifully landscaped backdrop of the 60 acre Shalom Park campus. In addition to booths presented by local Jewish institutions and agencies, the festival for the first time will feature artisans from throughout the region, and a more diverse selection of foods.

The festival will also anchor the local Jewish community's celebration of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the state of Israel. A special exhibit will offer pho-

tographs of Israeli sites taken by local residents, as well as a model of the Western Wall in Jerusalem, one of the most sacred sites in all of Judaism. Festival goers will be able to leave written messages in the wall, echoing the tradition followed by visitors at the original site for thousands of years.

An entertainment stage will offer Jewish music and folk dancing throughout the afternoon, as well as two mock Jewish wedding ceremonies. There will be tours of Temple Beth El, Temple Israel and the Jewish Community Center. The JCC will also stage the first L'Chaim Charlotte 5K run early Sunday morning.

The lead corporate underwriters for this year's festival are WMF Capital Corp. and Bank of Mecklenburg. Other underwriters include Remax Results, Beck Imports of the Carolinas, Montag Management, Party Reflections, and Lions and Tigers and Bears Children's Boutique. Temple Beth El, Temple Israel, the Federation, the JCC and the Foundation also provided financial support.

To volunteer or for more information, contact Cary Bernstein, Federation Development Director and project coordinator at 366-5007, ext. 209. ☆

'98 Community Campaign nears \$1.7 million goal

Tzedakah, often inaccurately translated as charity, means justice with compassion. Performing deeds of justice is perhaps the most important obligation Judaism imposes on a Jew.

Over 1,500 Jews in the Charlotte community have fulfilled their commitment to this basic tenet of Jewish life and have made a gift to the '98 community campaign. As of April 1, the campaign total was \$1.58 million. The goal for 1998 is \$1.7 million.

"We are working to finish up the campaign and close as many gifts as possible so that we can reach our \$1.7 million goal," said Jill Newman, '98 campaign co-chair.

"We need every dollar to meet the needs of the community here in Charlotte and around the world."

"This money is used to fund Jewish education for preschoolers as well as to provide home care for older Jewish adults. Each dollar that we raise helps to make these activities possible," continued Mrs. Newman.

Thus far, Men's Division has raised \$1.2 million of the total. "\$925,000 was given by the Federation's major donors. "We are very fortunate to have a group of committed, community-minded donors who give generously each year in support of the community campaign," said Don Bernstein, who co-chairs this year's effort along with

Mrs. Newman.

He continued, "Each year we know that we can count on these leaders to help to achieve our goal. This group is an integral part of our success for this year's drive."

Women's Division raised 22% of the campaign total which is very much in line with what other women's divisions raise on a national level.

"We are very pleased with this year's effort," said Stacy Gorelick, who chairs the Women's Campaign along with Meg Goldstein.

"This year we have been able to raise more money than ever and are so pleased that many of the women in the community support the campaign with individual gifts."

Marvin Goldberg, Executive Director of the Federation, says that "the hardest part of every fundraising drive is making contact with each of the donors. We try through a variety of vehicles — face-to-face solicitations, telepledges and direct mail correspondence — to reach out to make personal contact with each contributor. Every contributor is important to us and we want to reach out to as many people as possible."

If for some reason you have not already been contacted, please call Cary Bernstein at the Federation to fulfill your commitment to tzedakah - performing a deed of justice with compassion. ☆

"Facing History and Ourselves" seeks to eradicate intolerance, racism and indifference among youth

Unique educational program uses lessons from history to teach students the value of community, responsibility and moral choice

By Fred Meyer

Did you read the front page feature story on the local page of *The Charlotte Observer* the morning of February 16? If you did, you know that something very exciting is happening in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System. As a result of the work done by Jackie Fishman, English teacher at Northwest School of the Arts and daughter of Holocaust survivor Dr. Susan Cernyak-Spatz, plans are underway to introduce the nationally acclaimed "Facing History and Ourselves" program into a number of schools for the Fall 1998 semester. How this was achieved is a study in perseverance, timing, team-

work and good luck.

Facing History and Ourselves is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to helping educators facilitate thoughtful dialogue in their classrooms about issues of tolerance and social responsibility. By providing professional development and extensive individual support to teachers, the Facing History program helps young people understand how human behavior and individual



Teacher Jackie Fishman shares Holocaust memorabilia with her Facing History students.

choice play a role in shaping history and our own society. Through a thought provoking, interdisciplinary course of study, Facing History examines the events that led to the Holocaust and other examples of

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"On Jews and Christians:" A weekend of Christian-Jewish Dialogue



Dr. Michael J. Cook

Temple Beth El and Myers Park Baptist Church host Scholar-in-Residence Dr. Michael J. Cook, who will discuss how the relationship between Christianity and Judaism is expressed through art, scripture, and ancient rabbinic texts

Temple Beth El and the Myers Park Baptist Church have a rich history of friendship and cooperation, and are excited to announce a special cooperative weekend of learning and fellowship. The weekend of May 8-10 will feature Professor Michael Cook of the Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, Ohio, as Scholar-in-Residence. Dr. Cook, a Reform rabbi and teacher of rabbis, is well known as an expert in his field, and will offer an exciting array of learning. Programs are as follows:

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