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The 1999 Federation Campaign Kickoff Event is Ready to Launch

Meet the Real Nimoy

Actor, director, and producer Leonard Nimoy will headline a black tie event on Saturday evening, January 30, 1999, kicking off the Jewish Federation of Charlotte's 1999 Annual Community Campaign. A gener-

ous donation from First Union Bank has made the dinner dance at Marriott City Center possible. The extraordinary efforts of the Federation's recipient agencies,

some his most outstanding achievements since the demise of that television show are those that incorporate his Judaism. He appeared in the television movie,

both here in Charlotte and abroad, will be a highlight of the event. The keynote speaker is Leonard Nimoy, who has proven that he can boldly go beyond the portrayal of Mr. Spock, of Star Trek, for which he is so well known. In fact,

"A Woman Named Golda," with Ingrid Bergman and portrayed Mel Mermelstein in the original cable production of "Never Forget." "Never Forget" is the story of how Mermelstein successfully sued the Institute for Historical Review, which claimed the Holocaust never happened. "... I became caught up in it, and I was really inside this character," Nimoy said in an interview in the Spring 1998 issue of *Reform Judaism*, published by the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. "I wish 'Never Forget' had more of an audience," he continued. "It's a very important story."

It was a Jewish agency that helped Nimoy's family emigrate from Russia to the United States. He grew up in a Jewish neighborhood of Boston. Natives of Boston may remember his father's barber shop on Blue Hill Avenue. His family attended an Orthodox shul and spoke Yiddish at home. As a youth, he was active in B'nai B'rith and read Jewish stories on the radio.



Even as a young actor, he brought his Judaism with him. In Star Trek, he borrowed the hand sign used by the Kohanim in the priestly benediction for Mr. Spock's "Live Long and Prosper." And he sees a lot of Judaism in the stories of Star Trek "[It] promotes meritocracy, social justice, the values of education, of principles and ideals. These are Jewish values," Nimoy said.

The cost for the evening will be \$150 per couple (\$75 per person), which includes a cocktail reception with open bar, a three-course

dinner, and a selection of tempting desserts. Musical entertainment will be provided Fat Ammon's Band of Virginia Beach. Reservations can be made by calling Cary Bernstein at 366-5007, ext. 209. Be sure to make your reservations for this exciting event early. It's only logical. ✧



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JCC Launches *Ta'yarim* Teen Travel Camp

On January 10, 1999, The Jewish Community Center of Charlotte will launch its exciting new teen travel program. The opportunity of a lifetime awaits those teens (grades seven through ten) as they travel to exciting places throughout the United States. Escorted by Teen Services Director Neil Popish, *Ta'yarim* Teen Travel will encourage independence and group spirit as well as affording campers the chance to make friends with other Jewish teens from this community. "This is going to be a whole lot of fun, and I will be there every step of the way to make sure it is," says Popish, a veteran escort and organizer of teen travel programs.

Ta'yarim (Hebrew for "explorers") Travel will offer two great programs for summer camp 1999. Teens entering grades seven and eight can select from two separate yet equally exciting two-week camp options. Each session is jam-packed with great trips and amazing activities, each completely different from the other so attendance

for the whole four weeks is also attractive to participants. During the first week of session I (June 14-25), *Ta'yarim-Aleph* will enjoy two days of orientation, team building, local day trips, and a three day trip to Atlanta. In Atlanta campers will find themselves at Six Flags over Georgia, Stone Mountain, a Braves baseball game, and more. The second week of session I will be spent in the mountains of West Virginia where whitewater rafting, a ropes course, paintball, and a train ride through the mountains await our campers. Popish is quick to point out that the "outdoor" activities are designed to challenge but not overwhelm campers.

Ta'yarim-Aleph session II (June 28-July 9) begins with two days of orientation and local day trips. Week 1 closes with a three-day two-night trip to Family Kingdom Amusement Park, Medieval Times, Myrtle Waves Water Park and the Myrtle Beach area of South Carolina. Exploring our American Heritage is the goal for the remain-

der of the session, as campers take a five-day trip to Williamsburg, Virginia. With attractions like Busch Gardens, Water Country, USA, Colonial Williamsburg, and The Ghosts of Williamsburg Tour, wonderful memories and friendships will surely be made.

Ta'yarim Teen Travel does not forget ninth and tenth graders. *Ta'yarim-Bet* gives our older teens a more elaborate travel experience. Session III (July 12-23) begins with two days of orientation and team building, and then it's on the road for ten days! The group will venture to the Northeast, including stops in Washington, D.C., Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York. Highlights of the trip include The Holocaust Memorial and Museum, the Smithsonian Institute, a nighttime visit to DC's national monuments, Arlington Cemetery, Baltimore's Inner Harbor, an Oriole baseball game (if in town), the Franklin Institute, and Six Flags Great Adventure amusement park.



Neil Popish at a Teen Travel experience.

Session IV (July 26-August 6) finds *Ta'yarim-Bet* on a similar schedule but to a totally different part of the country. This time our campers will participate in a ten-day trip to the Midwest, with stops in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Chicago, and Indiana. Highlights of this trip include great amusement parks like Cedar Point and Six Flags Great of America, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, the US Air Force Museum,

the Navy Pier, John Hancock Tower in Chicago, and a tour of the University of Notre Dame.

The Jewish Community Center of Charlotte's Teen Summer Programs is co-chaired by Melissa Raphael and Sandy Rosenberg, who, together with Neil Popish, have put together this five-star program specifically designed to meet the needs of Charlotte's ever growing teen population. Both Raphael and Rosenberg believe the time is right for this significant investment by the JCC. "We have been waiting a long time for a quality summer program for our older teens and this is it. We are very excited and believe the community will get behind this program" said Raphael.

If you would like more information or would like to register for *Ta'yarim* Teen Travel Summer Camp, please make an appointment with or call Neil Popish at 366-5007. Registration begins on January 10, 1999. ✧

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