

The Charlotte JEWISH news

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First Annual Jewish Community Cultural Arts Festival is Here!

Festival Hotline: 944-6710

If the last Jewish book you read was Chaim Potok's classic "The Chosen," then folks, in the words of Joan Rivers, "we need to talk."

This November and spilling into December, Charlotte is launching its first annual Jewish Community Cultural Arts Festival. With over 50 exciting events, (most are free, a small number require tickets) ranging from nationally-acclaimed book authors, award winning films, lectures by respected professors and clergy, exquisite gallery showings, a Jewish Book Fair, a Jewish Food Festival, fabulous photography exhibits, interactive workshops, and so much more.

"It's an opportunity for the entire Jewish community and beyond, to learn, taste, smell, discover, identify and explore Jewish culture and heritage," according to Jodi Valenstein, JCCAF Festival Chair.

sponsor of the festival and we look forward to this series of programs growing each year... this is just the beginning."

Festival highlights include presentations by authors and nationally-recognized spiritual leaders David Ariel (see Temple Beth El page for more information) and Rebbetzin Esther Jungreis. Marcus Rosenbaum, who discovered his



Ellen Bache

grandmother's diary, will shed some light on what it meant to be a young Jewish woman growing up in the South in the first half of the 20th century and other guest speakers will appear daily (see Calendar of Events on pages 16 and 17).

Women's American ORT will be sponsoring an evening with Ellyn Bache, the author of *The Activist's Daughter*, *Safe Passage*, and other works of fiction and non-fiction. Plan to meet with Bache on November 4 at 7:30 PM in Gorelick Hall.

Bache's first work of fiction, *Safe Passage*, was made into a film starring Susan Sarandon and Sam Shepard. Her second novel, *Festival in Fire Season*, which is set in Wilmington, was a Literary Guild "Editor's Corner" selection. Her most recent novel, *The Activist's Daughter*, is about a Jewish girl from D.C. who tries to escape her activist mother by going to college at UNC-Chapel Hill during the early days of the civil rights movement in 1963. Bache's collection of short "The Value of Kindness," won the Willa

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See special pull out calendar in center of this month's Charlotte Jewish News!

The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation Provides \$1.5 Million Gift to the Shalom Park Expansion and Endowment Campaign

Harry Swimmer and Hal Levinson, co-chairmen of the Campaign to Expand and Endow Shalom Park announced that the The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation has generously contributed \$1.5 million in a matching gift program for the Shalom Park project.

The gift, which requires matching gifts by new donors from the Charlotte community, is intended to enhance the endowment portion of the Foundation campaign. The Campaign's objective is that \$8-\$10 million of the \$28 million goal will fund an endowment that will help to underwrite the costs of operating the more than 180,000 square foot complex that, when complete, will house many of the institutions that comprise the organized Charlotte Jewish community.

Established in 1959 by the late Harry and Jeanette Weinberg and headquartered in Baltimore, Maryland, The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, Inc. is one of the 25 largest private foundations in the United States. With primary interest in the aged, homeless and other disadvantaged

groups, The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation distributes in excess of \$58 million dollars annually, to a myriad of independent human service and religious groups throughout the world.

Co-chairman Levinson was pleased to welcome the Weinberg Foundation, as a partner in building one of North America's most dynamic Jewish communities, here in Charlotte. Levinson said, "We are quite gratified to be selected to become part of the Weinberg Foundation family. Being chosen by them indicates their willingness to invest in us. This constitutes a level of national recognition that validates not only our physical growth, but also our commitment to consciously create meaningful expressions of Jewish life in our community. We sincerely appreciate the Weinberg Foundation's confidence and support."

The partnership of the Weinberg Foundation and Shalom Park will be inscribed in perpetuity, as the Jewish Community Center's new facilities for Older Adults will carry the name of The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation.

These facilities will house an older adult lounge, large program spaces for seniors, a variety of activity rooms and a secure facility dedicated to providing an older adult day care program for those with dementia and/or early stages of Alzheimer's Disease. Jewish Community Center President, Scott Menaker adds that, "With all of these facilities and direct access to a new Jewish library and multimedia center, a kitchenette, comfortable accessories and the availability of an outdoor courtyard, the Jewish Community Center will offer older adults both a warm and welcoming environment and a comprehensive array of program services."

Co-chairman Swimmer not only expressed his appreciation to the Weinberg Foundation, but also reminded the community that the Weinberg Foundation gift is a challenge to us all. "The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation has really given a tremendous boost to our campaign. In order to benefit fully from the Weinberg Foundation gift, we need new

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College Students: The Trip is Free; the Experience is Priceless

It's Israel. It's Fun. It's a Gift.

Birthright Israel - a partnership among prominent Jewish philanthropists, Jewish communities, and the citizens of Israel through their government - is committed to the principle that a trip to Israel is the birthright of every Jew.

Israel2000 is a chance for college students to visit Israel for free.

The winter break trip is offered to Jewish college students who have never been to Israel on an organized group trip.

Participants will travel with other students from their campus for ten days on the largest college trip in history. During the program, the students will:

- Explore the ancient city of Jerusalem.
- Hike through the Galilee region.
- Check out nightlife in Tel Aviv.
- Swim in the Dead Sea.
- Scale the heights of Masada.
- Attend a rock concert.
- Enjoy free time with friends.

- Meet with Israeli students, and business and political leaders.
- Learn about Israel and your Jewish identity.

The trip includes airfare from a designated El Al gateway city - Los Angeles, Chicago, New York, Miami or Baltimore - accommodations at quality guest houses and hotels, as well as most meals. A \$250 deposit, fully refundable upon completion of the program, will be required.

What's the catch? None at all. *Birthright Israel*, the Charlotte Jewish community and Hillel are offering this gift because they believe that a trip to Israel is your birthright.

For more information, visit www.israel2000.org or the Hillel office on your campus. Apply online at the website and you will be contacted to complete the process.



Birthright Israel was created by Charles Bronfman and Michael Steinhardt. The program is now entering its third year and is hoping to expand to many communities through Federation offices and Hillel facilities on college campuses. Currently the Hillels at both University of North Carolina and Duke University are involved in sending students to Israel through *Birthright Israel*.

Any students interested in participating in the program for the upcoming winter break or at any time in the future are encouraged to contact *Birthright Israel* or the office of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, 944-6760. ✪



Sponsors of the Festival are BBYO, Charlotte Jewish Day School, Charlotte Jewish Preschool, Consolidated High School, The Charlotte Chapter of Hadassah, Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, Jewish Community Center, Jewish Preschool on Sardis, Lubavitch of North Carolina, Temple Beth El, Temple Israel, Women's American ORT and the Yiddish Institute.

"The response from our community organizations exemplifies the commitment we all feel towards building a strong and vibrant community for our children," says Rabbi Murray Ezring of Temple Israel.

"Being Jewish means having arts, literature and culture flowing through your body," says Rabbi James Bennett of Temple Beth El. "The idea that we, as a community can and will invite each other and our non-Jewish friends and neighbors is a wonderful step forward for all of us here in Charlotte. Temple Beth El is proud to be a

**JCC Gala is postponed.
See related story on page 8**

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**Campaign Reaches
\$22 Million Mark!**

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