



The Jewish Community Center

Plans Underway for the 2nd Annual Camp SOAR at the JCC!

SOAR
Special Olympics athletic retreat

One of the highlights of this past summer was the first annual **Camp SOAR** (Special Olympics Athletic Retreat) which was held during the first week of June at the J. The brainchild of long time Special Olympics volunteer Bob Bowler, **Camp SOAR** brought together athletes for three and half days to participate in various sports and other activities.



JCC Member Lisa Frick gives big hugs to Special Olympians after a fantastic effort.

The J's Barry Schumer assisted in coordinating the camp which was free of charge and open to Special Olympic Athletes from eight years old and up. Among the events the athletes participated in were basketball, swimming, tennis as well as various arts and crafts projects.



Former pro basketball player, David Thompson, instructs the kids about the finer points of basketball.

Many celebrity coaches were on hand to help out as well like Toronto Raptors star Dell Curry, Former NC State all-american, David Thompson and WBT radio talk host and Hornets Broadcaster, Gerry Vaillancourt.

More than 60 athletes took part in **Camp SOAR** and it was a huge success!

This year, **Camp SOAR** is once again taking place June 5th-8th, 2002, at the JCC. As always with the Special Olympics, the focus of every program is on the athletes and their needs and this year will be no different.

Applications for this year's **Camp SOAR** will be available in the next few weeks. Those interested in having their name added to the list to receive one should call the Special Olympics Mecklenburg County office at (704) 358-1935, ext. 3.



A unique opportunity will be available to JCC members this year... a chance to sponsor an athlete. Details will follow in the mail shortly.



For more information on **Camp Soar** please contact Diana Ades, Special Needs Chair at (704) 561-4918 or Camp Soar Chair, Marcia Stern at (704) 366-0167. If you can't sponsor an athlete, we can always use volunteers for this special event! ■



Oasis Enrichment Programs Welcomes back Dr. Emily Seelbinder from Queens College



Oasis Enrichment Programs welcomes back Dr. Emily Seelbinder from Queens College, Friday April 12th from 1:00-2:00pm. Dr. Seelbinder comes to the Jewish Community Center sponsored by the North Carolina Humanities Council, Speakers Bureau. The Speakers Bureau grants stipends to professional speakers, like Dr. Seelbinder, in order for non-profits, such as Oasis Enrichment Programs, to engage higher caliber lecturers. Dr. Seelbinder will discuss "Sleeping Single," a lively reflection on being single in a coupled world. ■



Dr. Emily Seelbinder

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

"Sharing Our Stories"

The month of April features Michael Lieberman, a west coast convert and a regular face in the fitness center at the JCC.

This column is a continuing series about current JCC members and what the Jewish Community Center of Charlotte means to them.

I came to Charlotte in December, 1992 from Northern California. My company promoted me and moved me here. It was a major change in my life as I moved two teenagers, a 16 year old boy and a 14 year old girl. I had done research about the University system for NC, and was very pleased with what I read. The quality of education seemed to be as good as the high standards that the UC-system would offer us in California. I believe in respect that it was an excellent experience for my children to have lived on both coasts, and broaden their horizons.



I joined the JCC in 1994 to supplement my outdoor running with weight training. I consider myself a regular in the gym as I am typically there five days a week, when I am in town. The JCC has afforded me many friendships of people that I met there in my daily workouts. The best part was that this was not the intention, rather a very pleasant by product from all the time that I spend there.

The JCC adds alot to the Jewish community, as it knows no delineation between Reformed vs. Conservative Jew. One can hear on any given day, an eclectic mixture of opinions, backgrounds, politics, ideologies and philosophies. I have engaged in conversations which include sports, books, Judaism, travel, politics, restaurants, fitness and raising children at the JCC. The facility offers many activities outside from the fitness center for members of all ages and interests. I have been playing in the JCC Sunday morning Softball League for 8 years. We have a terrific group of guys who provide a competitive and friendly environment. I know I could not get the same kind of bonding, if I was to join a Y or another Fitness Center, and for this I am very grateful for the JCC. ■

Carolinas HealthCare System

Ray of Hope debuts May 4th

The Special Needs Committee at the JCC is pleased to announce a one day festival on Saturday, May 4th from 1pm to 5pm at Camp Mindy at the JCC for children living with cancer and their families.

In conjunction with Carolinas HealthCare System, **Ray of Hope Festival** will be a one day event where families can have fun, learn and do arts and crafts together.

There will be all types of games with prizes and loads of activities. With music and surprises for the whole family, it's a wonderful way to celebrate the children who are living with cancer and a terrific way for the entire family to have fun together.

More details will be in the mail along with information on how you can sponsor a child for the **Ray of Hope Festival**. If you know of a child with cancer, please let their family know about this wonderful family event.

For more information on **Ray of Hope** or to volunteer please contact **Ray of Hope** Chair, Melissa Raphael at (704) 366-5560 or Kim Veith, Wellness Director at the JCC at (704) 944-6750 ■

HOOPSTER CHAMPS!

The Maroon team (pictured left), won the Under 10 Hoopster League Tournament for the 2001-2002 season. The coaches were Scott Menaker, Jonathan Levine, and Lane Ostrow. ■

Congratulations to all our JCC basketball teams for a fantastic season!!!



Front row (l to r) Gabe Gorelick, Rachel Ostrow, Jake Vitale, and Denny Ostrow. Middle row (l to r) Max Menaker, Mason Sklut, Andrew Levine, and Ari Menaker.

American Red Cross
April 23rd **BLOOD DRIVE**
Gorelick Hall at the JCC
12pm to 4:30pm