# The Jewish Community Center WIS COMMUNITY ENTER OF CHARLOTTE

## MEMBERSHIP CORNER

C

### "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 stan-

dards that the UC system would offer us in California. I believe in retrospect 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<sup>f</sup>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, Jūdaišm, 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.

## American **Red Cross**

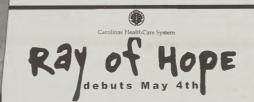
April 23rd BLOOD DRIVE **Gorelick Hall at the JCC** 12pm to 4:30pm

#### **Oasis Enrichment Programs** OASIS AT THE Welcomes back Dr. **Emily Seelbinder** from Queens

College

Oasis Enrichment Programs back Dr. Emily welcomes 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.



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 🔳





Decial 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



**Plans Underway** for the 2nd Annual

Camp SOAR

at the

JCC!

The J's Barry Schumer assisted in coordinating the camp which was free of charge and open to Special Olympic

ous sports and other activities.

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



Many celebrity coaches were on hand to help out Toronto as well like 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 Those in the next few weeks. 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.

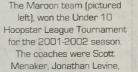


For more information on Camp Soar please contact Diana Ades Special Needs Chair at (704) 561-4918 or Camp Soar Chair Marcia Stern at (704) 366-0167 If you can't sponsor an athlete, we can always use volunteers for this special event !



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





a fantastic season!!!

**CHAMPS!** 

and Lane Ostrow. Congratulations to all our JCC basketball teams for