

Your Federation Dollars at Work

Oy, The Places We'll Go!

Did you know ... that Jewish camp alumni are 90% more likely to join a JCC and 50% more likely to join a synagogue, than Jewish adults who never went to a Jewish camp? (Statistics from Foundation for Jewish Camping, Inc.)

Driving up to Camp Mindy, you are transported into the mountains of North Carolina with log cabins, trees, and that wonderful feel of camp. Mindy Ellen Levine Day Camp at the Levine JCC is a day camp for school age youth, offering a wide gamut of experiences and session dates. It is a place where campers have fun, learn new skills, and accomplish realistic goals. As a Levine JCC program, Camp Mindy "lives, breathes, tastes, and smells" the rich traditions of Jewish identity, although it is open to all.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte helps Camp Mindy reach its goal of sustained Jewish involvement from youth into adulthood. The Federation provides scholarship funds for campers and their families who may not be able to afford on their own all camp has to offer.

"You never know when you are going to make a memory." This is

a saying that is posted in Anna Gunsher's office. Anna, the Director of Camp Mindy, explained that about half of the Camp Mindy staff were campers who returned to give back to the camp community they loved as



Happy Faces at Camp Mindy!

children. Gunsher says, "This is just a fabulous thing to see happen because you know you are creating memories and experiences that will affect the campers' future involvement in the Jewish community."

Camp Mindy is structured with the diversified interested of its campers in mind.

Camp Katan, for preschool age children, offers a nurturing quality program within a small group setting led by a caring and mature

staff. Camp Mindy offers age-specific activities for a diverse appetite of interest for those in grades k-5. There are also Specialty Camps available. Some examples include Soccer, Bubbe's Kitchen, Blast off to Space, Designer Duds, Camp Mindy New Rockers, and Trippin' On Charlotte. Teen Summer Programs offer three types of trips for youth in grades 6-10. This year, they are going to Colorado, white-water rafting, and the beach, plus six exciting adventure camps.

Camp Mindy is structured with the working parent in mind.

Hours are 9 AM - 4 PM, but 7 AM - 6 PM hours are available for extended camp. Dates are June 20-August 5, but June 15-August 19 dates are available for Preview and Encore Camps.

Camp Mindy gives its campers a taste of Israel.

Two *schlichim* (ambassadors) from Israel come to Camp Mindy for eight weeks every summer. One provides the campers with an Israeli *chavaya* (experience) including what it is like to be in the army and to live on a kibbutz. The other introduces them to outdoor camping including making tents out of sheets and taking them on nature walks. The *schlichim* are hosted by campers' families, usually switching homes at the four-week mark.

Camp Mindy is celebrating its five-year birthday in its present



Being silly with friends

it is our fifth summer and we love it up here. It's just fabulous."

Camp Mindy is now in ongoing registration time. Brochures are available at the JCC Front Desk. Find out more about Camp Mindy at the camp kickoff on Sunday, April 10 from 1-4 PM on the camp property. It is a "family fun time" that is free with no confirmation of attendance needed. You can reach Anna Gunsher, Camp Mindy Director, at agunsher@shalomcharlotte.org or 704-944-6729. ☆

location. It is now located on the top of the hill to the right of the main building on the campus of Shalom Park (next to Jewish Family Services). "Prior," Gunsher explained, "we were called Camp Shalom and were housed in the main building of [Shalom] Park. We were the first part of the [Foundation of Shalom Park expansion project] and now

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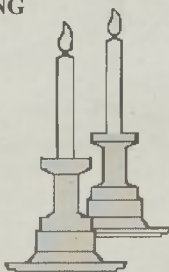
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SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING FOR APRIL 2005

Friday, April 1, 6:26 PM
Friday, April 8, 7:31 PM
Friday, April 15, 7:37 PM
Friday, April 22, 7:43 PM
Friday, April 29, 7:48 PM



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A Publication of the
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Published monthly except July

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