

# The Charlotte JEWISH news

An Affiliate of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte

Vol. 35, No. 4

Nisan-Iyar 5773

April 2013

## Celebrate Yom Ha'Atzmaut with The Fountainheads

By Roni Amitai, Community Shlichah

To me, the true meaning of Yom Ha'atzmaut is not to remembering a piece of scroll that 37 people signed 65 years ago - to me the true meaning of the day is actually to celebrate our present and our future. It's all about celebrating 65 years of amazing people, working together to achieve a mutual goal of making Israel a better place. My favorite part of Yom Ha'atzmaut in Israel is the ceremonial lighting of the twelve torches, one for each of the Tribes of Israel. Every year a dozen Israeli citizens, who made a significant social contribution in a selected area, are invited to light the torches on Mount Herzl (the burial ground of our past greatest leaders). The ceremony like everything else in Jewish life is meant to honor the past and give thanks for the present.

For our Israel @65 celebration this year, we are lucky enough to host a group of young people that

is working every day on making Israel a better place and are truly the leaders of the future - The Fountainheads.

The Fountainheads are a group of graduates from the Ein Prat Academy for Leadership. The group produces music videos set to pop songs with original lyrics celebrating Jewish holidays. Their videos have garnered millions of views on YouTube and been featured in leading news sources, television shows, and blog sites in Israel and across the Jewish world. In response to enthusiastic invitations from communities everywhere, the Fountainheads have toured North America and Europe and we are so excited that they are coming this April to Charlotte.

Ein Prat Academy for Leadership is Israel's largest provider of intensive pluralistic Jewish educational programming, located in the heart of the Judea desert. Students live on site in dormitory-style conditions and spend the majority of their waking time learning and analyzing texts in a pluralistic Beit Midrash. Ein Prat enhances Jewish identity, strengthens Israel's social fabric, and serves as a bridge between the country's next generation and young Jews

across the world, serving as an incubator for modern-day pioneers and mending the bridges between secular and religious. These young adults are redefining for themselves what it means to be an Israeli Jew. Together, they are creating new visions and opportunities for the Jewish State.

There is no better choice then

have the leaders of tomorrow here with us to celebrate Israel diversity, energy, achievements, history, and future. Please join me and the Fountainheads on celebrating Israel 65 Independences Day, April 21 at Symphony Park at Southpark, 5-7 PM. Tickets are \$5. [www.jewishcharlotte.org](http://www.jewishcharlotte.org). ☆

### The Fountainheads

**Yom Ha'atzmaut**  
**April 21 at 5 PM**  
**Symphony Park**  
**at SouthPark**

*Tickets on sale now.*  
[www.jewishcharlotte.org](http://www.jewishcharlotte.org)



## Free-Range Children: See What Lenore Skenazy Has to Say About Setting Your Children Free and Letting Them Fail

### Why I'm Raising Free-Range Kids

By Lenore Skenazy,  
excerpted from 2009  
Huffington Post

One Sunday morning about two weeks ago, the phone rang.

"Lenore?"

"Yes."

"My name is Irving." I didn't catch his last name. Shipolsky or something. "I live in Queens. I'm 90 years old."

"Mazel tov! What's up?"

"I just called to tell you about the first time I rode the subway by myself."

Ah - got it. He'd tracked me down because I am The-Mom-Who-Let-Her-Nine-Year-Old-Ride-the-Subway-Alone.

Like Irving, you may have seen me on Dr. Phil or Nightline or The View. Or heard me on NPR or the Today Show. Suffice to say that last year, when I wrote a little column about letting my fourth-grader ride the subway solo from Bloomingdale's to 34th Street then take a bus to our apartment, it hit the proverbial "nerve."

Then when my *Free-Range Kids* book came out, the nerve got hit again, which is why Irving wanted to talk.

"You got time?" he asked.

"Sure."

"Well, I was 10 years old and I was going to my grandmother's house for Hanukkah. She lived in the Bronx. My mother made me take my little sister along, who was 8."

I could hear the smile.

"We got on the train and stood in the front car so we could look out at the tracks. It was snowing..."

Here's a guy who's been mar-



Lenore Skenazy

ried for 66 years. He has children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and even two great-great-grandchildren. He fought in World War II. But one of the defining moments of his life was that first time he did something "grown up" by himself.

In 1929.

So these past few weeks, when I've found myself attracting callers who would like to tie me to the subway tracks, Irving became my new touchstone.

My whole point is not to deny that there's danger in the world. It's just to put that danger back in perspective so we can give our children exactly what Irving has

admitted: They would never let their kids do the same.

Why not? Has the world really become so much more dangerous in just one generation?

What's happened in the past generation is our fear for their safety has overwhelmed any old-fashioned notion of the benefits of letting them knock around and make their own fun. Even make their own mistakes.

No, not in the way that most parents fear. Locally, our murder rate is back where it was in 1963, when a kid could take a ride on the subway and it wouldn't make the "Today Show." Nationally, Justice Department statistics show that the number of kids getting abducted by strangers actually holds pretty steady over the years. In 2006, that number was 115.

Everything has its 15 minutes of fear. We get so rattled by it all, we can't think straight.

So our brains are filled with overflowing with terrible stories and heartbreaking pictures, and scary advice and hysterical products, all very much out of whack with the fact that it's a great time to be a kid.

(Continued on page 5)



Lenore Skenazy says you can protect your kids without bubblewrapping them.

treasured for eight decades: The chance to say, "I did it myself!"

A chance we're denying our kids.

As parents, we want to raise children who are self-confident and independent. And we want them to be safe.

When my story first came out, people kept pulling me aside to say that they had been allowed to get around by themselves as kids, and boy were they glad.

They relished those memories — and thanked their parents — and then in the next breath they



**Jewish Family**  
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*the heart of our community*

**Community Yom**  
**HaShoah program,**  
**April 7 ...see page 14.**

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