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Israeli Scouts Bring Israeli Culture and Spirit to Shalom Park

"The Israeli Scouts Friendship Caravan"

Tzofim Friendship Caravan, a group of highly talented Israeli boys and girls will perform in Gorelick Hall at Shalom Park at 6 PM on Tuesday, June 25. The Tzofim Friendship Caravan is part of a larger delegation of Israeli Scouts who, each summer, represent Israel at camps and communities across North America.

This summer, four Tzofim Friendship Caravans will travel throughout the United States and Canada, bringing Israeli culture to North America through lively musical programs made up of songs and dances. They perform both in Hebrew and English. Each caravan is comprised of ten

The Israeli Scouts Friendship Caravan
Tuesday, June 25
6 PM
Gorelick Hall at Shalom Park

incredibly motivated and talented Israel Scouts, ages 16 and 17, and two adult leaders. The Tzofim Friendship Caravans will perform at camps, community centers, synagogues, churches, schools, nursing homes, and hospitals throughout the summer months.

Now in their fortieth year, the Tzofim Friendship Caravan has been spreading their message of peace, brotherhood, and friendship throughout North America. Through song and dance, conversations and activities, they warm your hearts and bring a piece of Israel right to you. There is no



better time to celebrate in our shared heritage and to support the State of Israel.

See the best that Israel has to offer. Come to the Tzofim Friendship Caravan performance on June 25.

The performance is free and open to the community. For more information contact the Federation office at 704-944-6757. ☆

Kids' Triathlon, June 2



The Sandra and Leon Levine Jewish Community Center (LJCC) is hosting the 2nd annual Kids' Triathlon on Sunday, June 2, to benefit the Levine Children's Hospital. This special event is about more than just good, fun athletic competition – it is about giving back. It is about children of all ages and cultural backgrounds swimming, biking, and running to help other children working to get back to doing those same activities.

The Levine JCC Youth Triathlon will directly support the rehabilitation programs at Levine Children's Hospital. These programs are available to infants and children of all walks of life. After

a child suffers a significant injury or illness, they often need inpatient rehabilitation services to regain the strength and functional skills necessary to return home or to school. Levine Children's Hospital provides the region's only comprehensive inpatient rehabilitation services for children and adolescents who have experienced a debilitating illness or injury. With a



continuity of care that is unparalleled, LCH offers high level of care outpatient programs. After release from the hospital, LCH patients have the opportunity to participate in the Adaptive Sports and Adventures Program, which is a part of Carolinas Rehabilitation. This program, open to anyone in the community, is designed to challenge youth (and adults) with physical disabilities to develop skills that will lead to and enhance an active and productive lifestyle – one without barriers. In addition to the participation of children from the Charlotte community, there will be patients from the Adaptive Sports and Adventures Program racing in the triathlon as well.

In 2012, thanks to all of our sponsors and fundraising families, we raised over \$35,000 for rehabilitation programs at Levine Children's Hospital and the Adaptive Sports and Adventures Program. The LJCC has received a very generous Challenge Grant from The Leon Levine Foundation. It needs to raise \$30,000 to receive an additional \$10,000 from The Leon Levine Foundation. Also, the top individual fundraiser wins a 3-night trip to Disney World plus park hopper passes, courtesy of Mann Travels. Register today at www.ljcckids.org. For more information please contact Julie Rizzo and julie.rizzo@charlottejcc.org. ☆

Rabbi Noam Raucher of Temple Israel Will Attend the 19th World Maccabiah Games in Israel

Jeff Bukantz, General Chairman, 19th Maccabiah USA Organizing Committee, announces the appointment of the USA Team to compete at the Maccabiah

Games in Israel, July 18–30. The Team, over 1,130 strong, will be the largest traveling delegation ever to travel from the USA to compete in an International

Olympic Committee-sanctioned event. There will be an additional group of over 300 friends and family to cheer on the Team.

As of today, there are 1,132 Jewish American athletes and coaches that will comprise Team USA. They come from 37 States, the District of Columbia, and Israel. Representing Charlotte is Rabbi Noam Raucher of Temple Israel.

"I'm really excited to be going to Israel for the 19th Maccabiah games," Rabbi Raucher says. "This will be my second time attending the games in Israel. Last time was in the Summer of 2005, just before beginning rabbinical school. Then I went as a Team Manager, but this time I'll be going as Team Rabbi. Just before last year's high holidays, I was contacted by Maccabiah's central office and told that I was on a short list for the position. They told me about the job, set up some interviews, and the rest is history."

The Maccabiah Games are about more than sports competition. They are an opportunity for Jewish athletes from around the world to convene in Israel for an elite athletic competition and to

explore their common culture and heritage in the historic Jewish homeland. "We take athletes that happen to be Jewish, to compete in the Maccabiah Games," Bukantz commented. "But we return home with Jewish athletes who have a renewed sense of pride in their Judaism and increased support for the State of Israel."

Rabbi Raucher adds, "In addition to typical clergy responsibilities I'll get a chance to do some teaching and get to frame their efforts in athletics and friendly competition in a Jewish way. My partner in crime, Rabbi Daniel Greyber of Raleigh, and I have been appointed 'spiritual coaches' for the games. ... The pageantry, friendships, spirit of Jewish unity, and feats of athleticism will fill my soul (and give me plenty of material for future sermons). ..."

The Maccabiah Games are the third largest international sporting event in the world, after the Summer Olympics and the Pan Am Games. There will be over 8,500 participants from 70 countries at the 19th World Maccabiah Games. ☆



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