

# The Hebrew Cemetery and TreesCharlotte Collaborate on Tu BiShevat Tree Planting

By Brian Yesowitch, president, Hebrew Cemetery Association

The Hebrew Cemetery Association invites the entire Jewish community to join our Tu BiShevat Celebration on Sunday February 8, 1:30-3:30 PM, rain or shine, at the Hebrew Cemetery at 1801 Statesville Avenue, Charlotte, NC 28206. During this event, we will plant 40 trees. Our community's clergy will lead us in prayer and teach us about the mitzvot associated with Tu BiShevat, the New Year for trees. The event is child friendly but please dress appropriately for outdoor weather. Follow-

ing the planting and activities, tours will be available for those who wish to learn more about our community's oldest Jewish institution, as well as tour the new Memorial Building or view our Blumenthal Memorial Garden.

The Tu BiShevat tree planting event is a collaboration between the Hebrew Cemetery Association and TreesCharlotte. Sandra Goldman is the Director of HCA, and Tammy Seigel is the Programs Director of TreesCharlotte. If you would like more information about the event, you may contact Goldman at: director@he-



In the Blumenthal garden.

brewcemetery.org or me at byshalomch@gmail.com. He was walking his dogs in his neighborhood or enjoying the beauty of the North Carolina mountains."

It is that love of nature and the Hebrew Cemetery of Charlotte that inspired the Blumenthal family to leave a legacy endowment specifically for the beautification of the Cemetery grounds. Those wishes and that love of nature expressed by Herman, Anita, and their family continue to inspire our Association leadership today.

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Our Association is very proud of the natural beauty experienced at the Hebrew Cemetery. The planning and execution of a landscaping plan has been carefully stewarded by our Association Board for nearly 30 years. Many in the community believe it is the legacy of the Blumenthal family that is responsible for integrating nature seamlessly into the Jewish experience one receives whether at Shalom Park, the Hebrew Cemetery or even when groups spend weekends at Wildacres Retreat. Herman Blumenthal believed it was important "to blend the graces of modern life with the beauty of the wilderness."

I recently spoke with Board Member Jill Blumenthal who had these recollections of her grandparents Herman and Anita Blumenthal. "Grandma and Grandpa were both very committed to supporting the local community, but Grandpa especially felt it was important to have a Jewish cemetery in Charlotte. Grandpa also en-

joyed being outside, whether he was walking his dogs in his neighborhood or enjoying the beauty of the North Carolina mountains." It is that love of nature and the Hebrew Cemetery of Charlotte that inspired the Blumenthal family to leave a legacy endowment specifically for the beautification of the Cemetery grounds. Those wishes and that love of nature expressed by Herman, Anita, and their family continue to inspire our Association leadership today.

Over the past three years, our Building and Grounds Committee, led by Bill Gorelick and Kevin Levine, has worked to not only make the grounds functional – to accommodate an additional 1500 graves that will serve the funeral needs of our diverse Jewish community – but also to make the grounds rich with natural beauty. With the guidance of Designia Landscaping, Gorelick and Levine executed a natural plan that is both colorful and beautiful, with different visual and sensual experiences provided to visitors in every season. All of this has been accomplished while adhering to the Jewish laws and traditions regarding cemeteries.



in Boston, Dallas, and Los Angeles.

We're nearing the end of our second year of the Grinspoon Foundation Challenge for the Create Your Jewish Legacy Campaign. We met our first year goal, but need your help to achieve our goal for year two. The paperwork is very easy to fill out – and if you have already made your C.J.L. commitment, it's easy to add the



The Memorial Building. Photo courtesy Brian Yesowitch.

Cemetery to your beneficiary plan. You may contact the Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community directly at 704-973-4554 or you may contact Sandra to make your plans known.

We hope you will join us for the Tu BiShevat Celebration on Sunday February 8, but if you're unable, please take some time soon to experience the natural beauty of our Hebrew Cemetery for yourself.

Membership in the Hebrew Cemetery Association is affordable at \$72 annually. Members get significant discounts when they pre-plan their funerals. For more information about membership or funeral preplanning, please contact our director, Sandra Goldman, at director@hebrewcemetery.org or 704-576-1859 for more information. ✨

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## Moishe House Events for February

Moishe House is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting community among Jewish young adults in their twenties and early thirties. Moishe House looks to fill the void that often exists after graduating college and prior to "settling down." The organization, with 73 houses in 17 countries, brings together groups of three to five Jewish adults who live together and plan local programs, both home-based and external, for other young Jewish adults.

Moishe House Charlotte began in August 2013 and has hosted over 90 events ranging from service projects to social events to Jewish learning and more. Diana Warth, Elana Congress, Audrey

Singer, and Danielle Soowal, live in the house. Next month we will grow to five as Matt Hirschl moves in. We are always taking applications for new residents. Please contact us if you are interested.

And now, for our events for the month of: February

**1. Shabbat Dinner** - Friday, February 6 at 7:30 PM (Moishe House)

Come wind down from your week at the Moishe House for a fun Shabbat dinner. Chicken matzo ball soup will be provided. We ask that you bring something to share to supplement the meal. The festivities will kick off at 7:30.

**2. Pool Night** - Thursday, February 19 from 7:30-9:30 PM (Rack'Em Pub and Billard, Matthews)

Chalk up your cues and join the Moishe House for an



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