

Empowering Today's Teachers to Create Tomorrow's Leaders

The LSJL Presents Mini-CAJE 2015

The stage is set and the speakers are preparing for Mini CAJE 2015, presented by the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library. Each year the LSJL organizes a day of enrichment for the teachers on Shalom Park and beyond who enrich the lives of our children on a daily basis. This year on February 16, educators will convene for a day of enrichment and inspiration designed to help them in the classroom.

Beginning at 4 PM educators will have the opportunity to attend workshops designed specifically for the age groups they teach. As part of the workshops, Dr. Barrie Morganstein from Southeast Psych will be presenting about creating positive classrooms. Other workshops of note include a session with Libby Rains from Jewish Family Services, a technology workshop designed to help educators best use Torah Aura's Prayer Tech software, and

much more.

The workshops will run until 6 PM when dinner will be served and a keynote address will be given. The keynote address will be given by Fred Grooms. Fred has spoken to thousands of educators and students across the United States as well as internationally. After serving in the military for five years, Fred left to rejoin civilian life and business. He has been successful in corporate and non-profit businesses alike including Toyota and Work Force Services, a non-profit serving mentally handicapped adults. His passion is working with teachers and students to help them realize their talents and how to use them. In addition to his keynote speech, Fred will be conducting a workshop about guiding students through making choices.

The event will be held at Shalom Park. Registration begins at 3:30 PM on Monday, February 16. The event begins at 4 PM and ends with after dinner around

7 PM. For more information and to register for this event please contact Nicole Lamparello, Program Director of the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library via email at nlamparello@shalomcharlotte.org or by phone at 704-944-6763. The deadline to register for this event is Monday, February 16. ☆



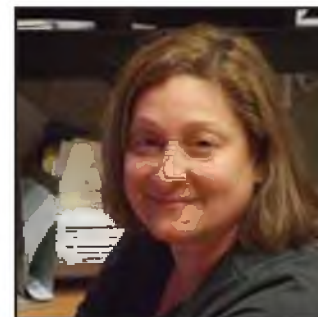
SYNAGOGUES & CONGREGATIONS

Temple Beth El Welcomes New Executive Director

By Amy Krakovitz

"So this is my new best friend," says Laura Bernstein, referring to her car GPS. As a recent transplant to Charlotte, she is still getting used to our unusual traffic patterns. "I have yet to figure out how Rea Rd. runs parallel to Providence and then intersects it." But she's smiling, clearly pleased to be occupying the office of the Executive Director at Temple Beth El.

Laura, husband Howard, and daughter Sanya, moved to Charlotte in August of 2014, after 14 years of living in Des Moines, IA. "We needed a change, a new adventure," she explained. And the winters in Iowa were easy to forego. In Des Moines, both Laura and Howard were small business owners; he ran a retail wine shop,



Laura Bernstein

she owned and operated Vision-Point, a training resources company.

But her experience in training and personnel and her MBA and doctorate in Education aren't the only things that makes her a good fit for the Executive Director position. She also served as interim director of the Jewish Federation Community School, where she contributed to the creation of a new preschool. This was in addition to her many volunteer positions in both the community-at-large, as well as her synagogue.

The structure of Shalom Park is somewhat familiar to her, as Des Moines also has a single campus for many of its Jewish organizations. The Caspe campus houses the Federation, Jewish Family Services, Gan Shalom Preschool, Beit Sefer Shalom Community Religious School, Engman Camp Shalom, the Jewish Community Relations Commission, and the Iowa Jewish Historical Society. While there are no synagogues on the campus, Laura still said that working in concert with all the organizations on Shalom Park was one of the many things that attracted her to the position at Temple Beth El.

As Executive Director, Laura will be responsible for HR, operations, budget, building issues, engagement, and development through her relationships with the executive committee, the building committee, and the finance committee, to name a few. "Just the way the clergy lift us up spiritually," she says, "my goal is to lift our congregation up toward our goal of relational Judaism, through the business side."

In spite of her confusion at our local traffic patterns, Laura and Howard do love their new home here. "The diverse population is one of my favorite things about Charlotte," she asserts. "The cultural diversity is a great change for us. It's just exciting to have so many different kinds of restaurants." In response to a look of curiosity, she replies, "Look, I know it's not New York, but compared to Des Moines, this is amazing." ☆

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