

The Hebrew Cemetery Association and TreesCharlotte Partner for Community-Wide Tu BiShevat Tree Planting

By Sandra Goldman, Director, Hebrew Cemetery Association

On a beautiful sunny Sunday afternoon over 80 volunteers gathered inside the Mindy Ellen Levine Chapel to celebrate Tu BiShevat. After an engaging introduction by members of the Temple Israel, Temple Beth El, and Congregation Ohr HaTorah clergy, the event participants, ages five to 93, rolled up their sleeves, stepped outside, and planted 35 trees around the grounds of the Hebrew Cemetery.

Dave Cable, Director of TreesCharlotte, was more than pleased with the event. "What a great opportunity to bring an already wonderful community together and expand Charlotte's beautiful tree canopy," Cable said. On the grounds were also former Charlotte Observer Publisher Rolfe Neill and longtime Hebrew Cemetery Association member and Create a Jewish Legacy participant, Marcia Simon, both Board Members of TreesCharlotte. It was through Marcia's experiences donating to the Jewish National Fund (JNF) that the program that would grow to become TreesCharlotte was conceived. Conducting the TreesCharlotte event on Tu BiShevat brought the program full circle because of the JNF's historical association with Israeli Arbor Day.

Councilman Al Austin from District 2 was also found digging in the grounds. "The City of Charlotte has goals to plant 10,000 trees annually," shared Councilman Austin. "The Hebrew Cemetery Association is an excellent example of a private institution working with TreesCharlotte to support the city's goal. The Hebrew Cemetery and the many volunteers who planted the trees made a tremendous impact in beautifying District 2 as well as working towards additional environmental and health benefits in the district's neighborhoods. This is a very important project for the city and the Hebrew Cemetery."

The first ever community-wide Tu BiShevat tree planting event was a huge success and the many enthusiastic participants hope to add more trees next year.

If you are interested to learn more about TreesCharlotte, please visit their website at www.treescharlotte.org. For membership questions, preplanning and legacy giving, please contact Sandra Goldman at director@hebrewcemetery.org or 704-576-1859. ☆



District 2 Councilman Al Austin, Cemetery President Brian Yesowitch, and Marcia Simon.



Shari Sokolowicz, Mia Ashar, Tammy Nachshon, Hayley Nachshon, Daniel Ashar, and Tom Ashar.



Dave Cable of TreesCharlotte talks about proper planting of trees.



Inside the Mindy Ellen Levine Chapel.



Klezmer Music at the Charlotte Symphony

(Continued from previous page)

Kogan pieces arranged for clarinet with orchestra, and perform them during my 40th season? That would give me a chance to make a klezmer splash with the orchestra and our audience, as well as add an exciting showpiece to the "klezmer clarinet with orchestra" genre. I had to convince my conductor, Christopher Warren Green, that this project was worth pursuing.

Fortunately, CWG was on board with showcasing me during my 40th season. The klezmer idea appealed to him as well; especially since it was something different, and it would attract an audience that he wanted to make a connection with - Charlotte's Jewish community. The project was green-lighted; I contacted Alan Kaufman, a talented Charlotte musician who knows the klezmer style and could do a good job with the orchestration.

I selected five of the Kogan pieces that I felt would work nicely to form a suite. Kogan had not named the individual pieces, so I gave them names based on the dance style that each represents: *Freylekh*, *Khosid'l*, *Nigun*, *Kolomeyke*, and *Bulgar*. Additionally, I felt it would be nice to begin the suite with an unaccompanied clarinet *Doina*, a rhapsodic fantasy with an improvisational character - but this *Doina* would have thematic hints of the *Freylekh* to follow. The first, second, and third movements of the suite would likewise be connected with a clarinet *Doina*, and the connection between the third and fourth movement would be a double cadenza between the clarinet and solo violin. I wrote the doinas and double cadenza, but definitely encourage improvisation. We titled the piece based on the instrumentation: Klezmer Dances for Clar-

inet, Strings, Percussion, and Tuba.

A sneak preview of the piece will be performed at the Providence United Methodist Chamber Music Series on March 8 at 7 PM, where we will perform a chamber music version of the Klezmer Dances. Admission is free.

The Klezmer Dances will be performed on the Charlotte Symphony's "KnightSounds" series at 7:30 PM on April 17 and 18 and I hope it will become a piece that other clarinetists will enjoy playing with orchestra. It will be part of a program entitled "A Night in New York," which will include Rhapsody in Blue. All in all, a good night for clarinet.

Look for tickets at <http://www.blumenthalarts.org/events-performances/coming-performances/detail/charlotte-symphony-knightsounds-a-night-in-new-york>. ☆

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Scott is a long time community volunteer, leader, and sponsor in the Jewish community since 1985. Both he and Tricia, along with their dental team, volunteer their time and expertise to make a positive impact in our community.

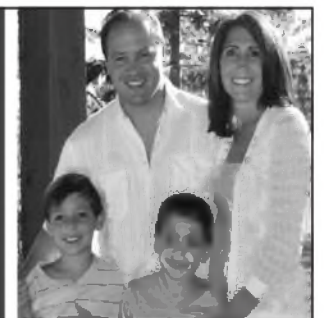


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