

JEWISH FEDERATION NEWS

The Importance of Yom HaZikaron and Yom Ha'Atzmaut

By Adi Rodavsky, Community Shlichah

The importance of Yom HaZikaron and Yom Ha'Atzmaut to the Israeli people cannot entirely be put into words. One matter that can be explained is the proximity between the two. They are mentioned side by side in Israel and the shift between grief and joy is felt every year. Yom HaZikaron opens with a siren during which cars and buses stop and everyone stands and remembers the soldiers who have given their lives so that we can live in our country. Israel has seen many wars since it became a country and unlike any other country, everyone in Israel has experience in the army, as the service is mandatory. Because of that, every

mother in Israel knows what it feels like to worry for her son or daughter while they serve in the army and many families unfortunately know loss. During Yom HaZikaron, we have ceremonies in memoriam for the young men and women who gave their lives for our freedom and the engraved families go to the cemetery to honor their loved ones who have passed. Our cantors sing *El Male Rachamim* (God, Full of Mercy) for the souls of the soldiers and for the victims of terrorism. A day afterwards, all of Israel celebrates Yom Ha'Atzmaut.

Many have asked me why the two are always so close and why the shift is so sudden, from a day of utter grief to a day of great celebration. The answer is that exist-

tence in Israel is always a mixture of sadness and happiness, remembering those we have lost as a people and celebrating their legacy, the continued existence of Israel. During the previous summer, 66 new names have been added to the long list of soldiers who we honor. Sixty-six new engraved families, 66 more faces of young men who had their lives cut short by the war against Hamas. This year, we will remember them and all the others and at the same time, we will celebrate the continued existence and independence of Israel, an achievement they have given their lives for. During Yom HaZikaron, all the names of those soldiers are mentioned. For me, they are always too handsome, too brave, and much too young and for all of us in Israel, the grief is much too close. Perhaps it is good then, that we rise from this sadness into the happiness of Yom Ha'Atzmaut.

It means a lot to me to be able to plan both the memorial ceremony of Yom HaZikaron and the celebration of Yom Ha'Atzmaut here in Charlotte. Israel is the achievement and the pride of all the Jewish people and it gives me great pleasure to be present here for both those days. Even in the terrible grief of Yom HaZikaron, I am always empowered by the singing of our anthem which reminds us that our soul wish is to be a free people in our homeland and that soldiers have died for us to have this wish come true.

I invite you to join us for both these days. I look forward to seeing you all on April 22 for Yom HaZikaron and on April 26 for Yom Ha'atzmaut. (See ad on page 16.) ☆

PJ Library A Gift of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte

PJ Library is a powerful way to bring parents and children together over beautiful and meaningful Jewish ideas. Infants and young children will receive monthly a high-quality, age-appropriate Jewish content book or CD at your home along with a parent resource guide. Parents will also receive a monthly e-Newsletter with local community events geared to families with young children.

More than 400 Charlotte area children have enrolled in PJ Library and there is plenty of room for you. We encourage you to enroll now and to spread the word to all your family and friends who are raising Jewish children here in Charlotte.

For more information, please contact Tair Giudice, Director of Outreach and Engagement, 704-944-6759 or tair.giudice@jewishcharlotte.org. ☆

Photos from recent PJ Library Event



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER CHARLOTTE

SHABBAT AND HOLIDAY CANDLE LIGHTING FOR APRIL 2015

Friday, April 3, 7:27 PM

Saturday, April 4, 2nd night of Pesach, after 8:24 PM

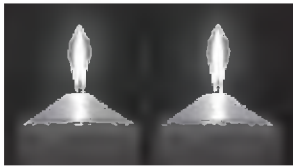
Thursday, April 9, 7th night of

Pesach, 7:32 PM

Friday, April 10, 7:33 PM

Friday, April 17, 7:39 PM

Friday, April 24, 7:44 PM



The Charlotte Jewish News

5007 Providence Road, Suite 112
Charlotte, NC 28226

Phone
(voice mail after office hours)

Office 704-944-6765

FAX 704-365-4507

email: charlottejewishnews@shalomcharlotte.org

An Affiliate of the
Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte

Amy Krakovitz - Editor

Advertising Sales Reps:

Jodi Valenstein, 704-609-0950 or

Scott Moskowitz, 704-906-2474

Art Director, Erin Bronkar

ebronkar@carolina.rr.com

CJN Editorial Board

Chair - Bob Davis

Members: Bob Abel, Evelyn Berger, David Delfiner,

Jeff Epstein, Ann Langman, Linda Levy

The CJN does not assume responsibility for the quality or kasruth of any product or service advertised. Publishing of a paid political advertisement does not constitute an endorsement of any candidate, political party or position by this newspaper, the Federation or any employees.

Published monthly except July

An affiliate of:



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER CHARLOTTE

CONTENTS

Federation News	pp. 1, 2
Schools	pp. 3, 5
Youth Visions	p. 6
Levine-Sklut Judaic Library	p. 8
Synagogues/Congregations	pp. 9-12

Women's News	p. 13
Jewish Family Services	pp. 13, 17, 19
Jewish Community Center	pp. 14, 15
Community News	pp. 19-25
Passover	p. 26
Dining Out	p. 27

I would like to make a contribution to demonstrate my support of *The Charlotte Jewish News*.

Name

Address

City

Enclosed in my check for \$.....

..... \$18.00	Basic Annual Subscription
..... \$25.00	Friend
..... \$50.00	Patron
..... \$100.00	Grand Patron
.....	Other