

Shalom Park Green Initiatives Take Flight Across the Park



By Yonatan Thull

I have a dream of a greener tomorrow. My name is Yonatan and I am a "Passionate ADHD Social Justice Visionary."

The visions on the map reprinted here are mine alone in no way representative of any organization, committee, or agency on the park. But here is some of the work being done to realize this vision.

Green Movement Gets Some Much Needed Support from LJCC CEO Peter Blair and Other Park Agencies

I was honored to meet Mr. Blair who spoke with me about the Green Movement on the park and his past involvement with other sustainability projects. I was very impressed by his extensive experiences helping Jewish Community Centers transition to being more energy efficient. He shared with me his thoughts about shifting to renewable energy at the LJCC. It seems to me, that he has the knowledge base and a sound plan to incrementally shift us towards a greener park. Meanwhile, he is very supportive of the many projects already in place and he looks forward to seeing the growth of sustainability on the park. Along with this meeting, I have had the pleasure of speaking with representatives from across the park who have welcomed me and expressed their commitment to engaging in social action through Judaic Environmentalism.

Shalom Park Wildlife and Bird Habitat

Another amazing project to strengthen the wildlife habitat on the park was sparked by the Temple Beth El 2016 confirmation class. I told them "we are commanded, just as Adam and Eve were, to care for the earth and protect Adonai's Gardens." I went on to explain to them the importance of saving our native songbirds, which are quickly decreasing in population size. But in particular, I focused on the Brown Headed Nuthatch bird, who are at even greater risk of becoming endangered due to their small size. To make sure I knew what I was doing, I began to research bird habitats. In the process I connected with the NC Bluebird Association, NC Audubon Society, and the Wildlife Federation. The Audubon Society has helped out a lot and connected us with a lot of resources. First, we were connected with the leaders of a local girl scouts group who made birdhouses and then decided to donate all of their cookie money to buy more birdhouses. They are giving us their 40 brown-headed nuthatch houses. Along with those houses, we are getting several other donations and when this project is com-

pleted, we will have 54 birdhouses. We have engaged multiple Girl Scouts troops including the JCC troop, to not only install the habitat but to help with numbering the boxes and collecting data for the wildlife organizations. This aspect of the project is essential in helping them collect more accurate numbers of these populations. **Keep Charlotte Beautiful Wants to Partner to Help Keep Shalom Park Beautiful**

I got to meet with the county Neighborhood Resource Liaison and Keep Charlotte Beautiful Program Manager. She has indicated that by partnering with her office

that we can potentially have access to state and local grants for our green movement. One of the projects she asked us to do is the road adoption program and I asked if we could adopt Jefferson Road. It turns out it is available and I am getting an official adoption to happen. I have also heard talk about some groups replenishing the water sources like reservoirs and creeks on the park, which will be essential to the habitat preservation and creation of a more balance eco-system. There is also the possibility of adopting the creek that runs through the Park which we will work to keep clean.

Charlotte Latin School (CLS) Goes Green

I met the Science Department Chair and Environmental Sustainability Coordinator of the CLS. I really enjoyed hearing about their project and I think we have a lot to learn from them. They have done some pretty extraordinary projects in reducing their waste stream and decreasing their electricity consumption. From this conversation I realized how we can create a sustainable project for years to come

through footprint reduction. I believe that if we follow their lead and start a composting project along with transitioning to sustainable lighting and energy sources that we will save tremendous

amount of money which can go directly back into the green projects and ensure sustainability of the green projects for years to come. ☆

Moishe House Events

(Continued from previous page)

with Icebreakers Thursday, August 18, at 7 PM at Moishe House

Join Chai Expectations and Moishe House for our 1st Tu b'Av holiday celebration. We will dress up in white and celebrate together the ancient holiday of love. You will get to know everyone in small groups while circulating the room answering fun questions. No pressure, just fun. Light snacks and drinks will be provided.

Event 4: Bar Crawl Noda Style Friday, August 26, starting at 8:45 PM in NoDa (starting at Blind Pig)

What better way to end a long week at work or school than to come chill with the Moishe house while we hop from pub to bar to pub to food to bar (well you get the picture) in Noda. We'll be

starting at The Blind Pig and move from there.

Event 5: Pizza, Poker, and Philanthropy - Tuesday, August 30, at 6:30 PM at Moishe House Charlotte

It's just what it sounds. Come to the Moishe House for pizza and poker. Half the pot will be awarded to the winner, with the other half being donated to Jewish Family Services. The buy in will be \$5, and no poker experience is necessary.

To learn more about Moishe House Charlotte, visit us at www.moishehousecharlotte.org/houses/charlotte or check us out on facebook: www.facebook.com/MoisheHouseCharlotte. To contact us, please e-mail mohocharlotte@gmail.com. ☆

Monday, Sept. 5, 2016

11am - 3pm

3rd Annual

Charlotte

Kosher

BBQ

Championship

at the Levine JCC

5007 Providence Road, Charlotte

- ▶ Kosher BBQ Contest
- ▶ Kids Zone
- ▶ Pickle & Watermelon Eating Contests
- ▶ Great Food and More!

- ▶ Celebrity Judges
- ▶ Live Entertainment

www.CharlotteKosherBBQ.com

Debra Van Glish | 704-231-6667 or debrapvg@aol.com

Join us!

JCC

Charlotte