

# JEWISH FEDERATION NEWS

## Commemorating and Celebrating Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut

By Inbal Ozeri

Two of the most significant days in Israel are coming up: the saddest day of the year and the happiest day. One followed by the other. These two days are attached not just by timing, but also by meaning. The two days are Yom Hazikaron (Memorial Day in Israel) and Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israel's Independence Day).

Independence Day, a day to celebrate the establishment of the Jewish state, comes right after Israel's Memorial Day, a day to thank and remember the soldiers who gave their life for us to be able to enjoy and have this amazing Jewish state. It commemorates Israel's fallen soldiers and victims of terror. Starting the evening before with a national ceremony, memorial ceremonies are held

everywhere throughout the day. Every school, city, and town has a ceremony, remembering its graduates or citizens who lost their lives.

Usually for every fallen soldier, there's a family member or a friend that comes up to the stage and shares their story.

On Yom Ha'atzmaut, for two minutes, the entire country stops everything. At exactly 11 AM, the sound of a siren goes off all over the country – everybody is standing still, all cars stop, and people get out and stand in silence (even in the middle of the highway). No one is moving, for two whole minutes. We pause our daily lives to acknowledge that we would not be able to have it, if not for those who lost their lives for us to have and keep our country.

At the end of the day, there is a closing ceremony followed by the opening ceremony of Independence Day – a beautiful, joyful parade celebrating our pride and love for Israel. It is a giant celebration that takes place all over the country with concerts, parties, and fireworks held in every city. Throughout the day parks, bases, and other attractions are open for the public and the biggest tradition of the day, is getting together with friends and family and barbecuing.

These two days, seem to not go together at all. One is agonizingly sad, full of grief and the other is exhilaratingly happy, full of joyful celebrations. But actually they are connected in the very core. One would not exist without the other. We would not have our Jewish state if not for all those who we commemorate. We owe it to them. And we owe to enjoy and have a fun, meaningful time in our amazing life for them.

במותם ציוו לנו את החיים

Please join us to commemorate and celebrate here in the amazing community of Charlotte on Monday, May 1 beginning at 6 PM. For more information please contact at 704-944-6784 or shalich@jewishcharlotte.org or see ad on page 22. ✨



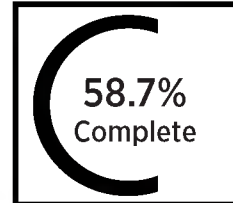
IT'S ALWAYS SOMETHING THAT'S WHY THERE'S FEDERATION.



Federation Board Member, Amy Vitner, and Annual Campaign Chair, Jeff Turk, are #FedProud to support the 2017 Annual Campaign

### CAMPAIGN 2017: AT A GLANCE

Goal: \$3,700,000



as of 3-21-17

### OUR COMMUNITY IS COUNTING ON YOU!

The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte's impact can be felt here in Charlotte, in Israel and around the world. Our focus continues to be on enriching Jewish life, caring for the vulnerable, and building a Jewish community. And while every dollar and every donor always counts...your gift will be felt more than ever in the next few weeks as we approach our campaign goal.

If you have not already made your gift to the 2017 Annual Campaign, we are asking you to do so today. Make your investment in the future of our Charlotte Jewish community. We cannot get there without YOU.

[WWW.JEWISHCHARLOTTE.ORG](http://WWW.JEWISHCHARLOTTE.ORG)

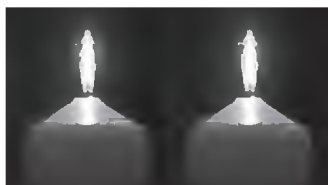


Jewish Federation OF GREATER CHARLOTTE

THE STRENGTH OF A PEOPLE. THE POWER OF COMMUNITY.

### SHABBAT AND HOLIDAY CANDLE LIGHTING FOR APRIL 2017

- Friday, April 7, 7:31 PM
- Monday, April 10, Pesach Eve, 7:34 PM
- Tuesday, April 11, 2nd night Pesach, after 8:31 PM
- Friday, April 14, 7:37 PM
- Sunday, April 16, 7th night of Pesach, 7:39 PM
- Monday, April 17, last night of Pesach, after 8:37 PM
- Friday, April 21, 7:43 PM
- Friday, April 28, 7:49 PM



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## CONTENTS

Federation News .....pp. 1-3	Jewish Family Services.....p. 17
Synagogues/Cong. ....pp. 4-6	Community News .....pp. 18-24
Women's News. ....p. 8	Youth Visions .....p. 25
Schools.....pp. 9-12	Dining Out .....p. 25
Jewish Community Center .....pp. 14, 15	Passover.....pp. 27-31

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