

The Charlotte JEWISH news

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A Taste of Israel: A Special Event with Jewish Federation's Women's Philanthropy

Thursday, October 18 at 7 PM in The Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts at Shalom Park

2017 James Beard Foundation "Outstanding Chef" Michael Solomonov and James Beard award winning restaurateur Steve Cook put Israeli food on the American culinary map. As they launch their brand-new cookbook, *Israeli Soul*, they'll join us for a savory conversation about their path to success, how they choose to give back, and, of course, how they landed on the perfect hummus recipe.



Enjoy wine and light hors d'oeuvres from their latest cookbook, which will be available for sale that evening, while learning more about the impact of Women's Philanthropy in Charlotte.

Tickets are \$36 and can be purchased online at www.jewishcharlotte.org. To learn more please contact Tair Giudice, Director of Education and Engagement, at tair.giudice@jewishcharlotte.org or 704-944-6759. ✪



Michael Solomonov and Steve Cook.



Inspired by our tradition of tzedakah (righteousness/charity) and tikkun olam (repairing the world), the Jewish Federation's Women's Philanthropy is dedicated to the continuity, connectivity, and thriving future of our Charlotte Jewish community, Israel, and the Jewish people.

Ten Years of Soaring to New Heights

As the Levine JCC Butterfly Project reaches its 10th anniversary milestone year, its achievements and goals for the future continue to soar higher. We will celebrate our success on Sunday, October 14 and will feature Charlotte Ballet choreographer Jeanene R. Perry's ballet, "Goodnight Day," which was inspired by our workshop. We hope that you will be able to join us, enjoy the performance, and hear Jeanene's story of how her son's profound reaction to the workshop he attended through school motivated their family to learn more about the Holocaust and ultimately inspired Jeanene to choreograph the ballet - performed by dancers who subsequently participated

in a Butterfly Project workshop themselves. Note that seating will be limited, so we strongly encourage you to register early for this free event.

During the 2017-18 school year, we celebrated the completion of the Margaret and Lou Schwartz Butterfly Garden Holocaust Memorial with an inspiring film event, initiated a multi-year effort to create a streaming, virtual workshop offering for schools too far from Shalom Park to attend a traditional on-site workshop, and continued to provide impactful educational workshops to almost 6,000 participants annually. Over the past ten years, we have educated just under 35,000 participants - 17% of the world-

wide project's total.

However, statistics only scratch the surface of our story. The Butterfly Project's real success is in the depth of the important lessons we provide and the heartfelt, insightful reflection cards that our participants write. Reflections such as from 14-year-old Sasha, who wrote, "Through this trip, I have learned to open up more to acceptance, because even though I am different, I sometimes can discriminate. I will, from now on, never discriminate on another solely on who they are. This experience has changed me greatly. Thank you." And, from 13-year-old Josh, who wrote, "I think that even though we live in a world full of hate, evil, and violence, somewhere in the eye of this great hurricane, there is hope, joy, and love for everyone. The problem is getting there. And the Butterfly Project is bringing us a step closer."

The Levine JCC Butterfly Project began in 2008 with a small group of dedicated and passionate volunteers who had learned about the worldwide project begun by the San Diego Jewish Academy. The project's goal is to paint 1.5 million ceramic butterflies worldwide in memory of the 1.5 million children who were killed during the Holocaust. During the next few years, our volunteers took butterflies and some short lessons into Charlotte area classrooms and other community organizations. In May of 2011, the Margaret and Lou Schwartz Butterfly Garden Holocaust Memorial, containing approximately 2,800 ceramic butterflies, was dedicated on Yom HaShoah - Holocaust Remembrance Day.

In November of 2011, the greatly enhanced Levine JCC



The Levine JCC Butterfly Project

Zikaron v'Tikvah Remembrance and Hope



Butterfly Project Workshop was brought home to Shalom Park. Multiple days a week, busloads of students from public and private schools in Mecklenburg and surrounding counties attend a two and one-half hour field trip. During that time, the students hear the experiences of Holocaust survivor Suly Chenkin or Irving Bienstock, participate in an interactive, multimedia exercise using the Anti-Defamation League's Pyramid of Hate, paint a ceramic butterfly memorializing a specific child who perished in the Holocaust, and visit the Margaret and Lou Schwartz Butterfly Garden Holocaust Memorial.

Our effectiveness has not gone unnoticed. Teachers have been re-enrolling their schools for the coming year at an unprecedented rate, and we have received ex-

tremely positive teacher feedback and touching student reflections. The Butterfly Project has also been fortunate to receive grants from the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte and the United Way of Central Carolinas.

The Levine JCC Butterfly Project is so very grateful to all who make this effort possible. These include the teachers who bring their students to us, our approximately 50 active, dedicated volunteers and staff who work countless hours to produce the workshops, and our wonderful donors without whom we could not achieve these outstanding results, all of whom should feel tremendous pride in what we are accomplishing together.

To ensure your spot at our free 10-year anniversary celebration on October 14, please register at the LJCC Customer Service Desk at 704-366-5007. For more information about the workshops or to volunteer, please contact Lori Semel, Butterfly Project Supervisor, at butterflyproject@charlottejcc.org. ✪

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Thank you to all our donors for your continued support. Together, we are powerful!

See page 11 for the Jewish Federation's Annual Listing of Donors