

Columbia Jewish News

Issue 4 | Volume XL | July & August 2015

**What's Jewish
about USC?**

see pages 20-21

**Support for
Charleston**

see pages 5 & 9



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The Columbia Jewish community is deeply saddened by the horrific tragedy that the AME family has suffered. We stand in solidarity with our sister community of Charleston and grieve with them. Our hearts and prayers are with the entire community.



#PrayersForCharleston

The *Columbia Jewish News* is a bi-monthly publication of the Columbia Jewish Federation.



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The views and opinions expressed in the *Columbia Jewish News* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect endorsement by the Columbia Jewish Federation or the editorial staff of this publication.

We welcome all voices from our community. If you would like to contribute an article, life cycle announcement, photos, or advertising, visit www.jewishcolumbia.org for submission guidelines and advertising rates.

The "J" in JCC

Barry Abels,

CJF and JCC Executive Director

This is a very exciting time in the life of your Katie and Irwin Kahn JCC. We have continued to grow our programs and activities of Jewish content, including our new Play at the J for toddlers and their parents or grandparents centered on a Jewish theme and incorporating a PJ Library book in each play session. I enjoyed participating in our annual Ice Cream Mount Sinai as we celebrated Shavuot. Over 50 children and adults had a great time eating ice cream while learning about receiving the gift of the Torah after the Exodus from Egypt. Along with lectures and programs on topics ranging from Jewish involvement in the Civil War to Israeli jazz musicians, the number Jewish content programs is growing and becoming more diverse. Over the last two years we have also increased our collaborations with all of our congregations, hosting several programs with Chabad, the Israeli Scouts, children's Jewish music concerts and most recently, an art auction fundraiser for Beth Shalom Synagogue.

There's no better place than your JCC to have your Bar or Bat Mitzvah party and many families have recently done so. We can accommodate a variety of themes and compared to a hotel or other venue, we provide a great value.

Working with Federation, we have also taken the "J" on the road. During this past year you might have joined us at the Irmo Okra Strut as we met unaffiliated families; celebrated Chanukah at the Harbison Rec Center or tasted olive oil at the Rosewood Market. You'll see more of these activities in the coming months. In 2015 we have delivered or scheduled over 50 programs or activities and there are more to come before years end.

Camp Gesher is in full swing. It's not only a great place for our children to have fun and be together within a Jewish context, regardless of congregational affiliation, but our teens and college students serve as counselors. For some, Camp Gesher is their first job.

There's no doubt that your Katie and Irwin Kahn JCC is a vibrant hub for Jewish life in greater Columbia. For every holiday you'll see banners; educational information, traditional foods and special programs.

But if my message seems more like a commercial, it's because we hear reoccurring comments that not much Jewish goes on at the "J." We're the unintended "best kept secret" in the community. I hope this is one step forward in changing that perception. I invite everyone to go to our website, our Facebook page, or give us a call to find out about upcoming activities. Read about what's coming in the Jewish News. Many of our programs and activities are offered at low or no cost. I think you'll find there's something for everyone.

Over the next several weeks and months you will also hear about a couple of exciting opportunities to support your JCC and ensure that these programs continue to grow in variety and frequency. In the near term, we are pleased to announce the return of our JCC Labor Raffle. Please see the information elsewhere in this issue to find out more. There will be fun, food and great prizes with a cash grand prize that could be as large as \$5000. Tickets are available at the JCC and through JCC board members.

You may have also heard conversations about a JCC capital campaign to retire our longstanding debt. One important and special aspect of this campaign as it moves forward is that it will allow us to "Complete The Promise" of our original design and add a great outdoor aquatics area, with water park features, a slide, snack bar and a great place for us to come spend summer days together with friends and family. I look forward to enjoying Havdallah by the pool side followed by an outdoor family movie. By retiring our debt we will also have more funds to add more of the programming mentioned earlier. Your support will help ensure this future.

We will continue to do more, collaborate more, and provide more to you our community. Ultimately, that's why we're here.



"There's no doubt that your Katie and Irwin Kahn JCC is a vibrant hub for Jewish life in greater Columbia... We're the unintended 'best kept secret' in the community."



"We are proud of the stand we took and will continue to respond to issues that impact our community."

Jewish Community Relations Council in Action

Cheryl Nail, CJF Community Relations Director

The Columbia Jewish Federation proudly welcomes Ilene King and Larry Needle as the new co-chairs of its Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC).



A long-time Columbia resident and member of Tree of Life Congregation, Ilene King brings years of experience to Columbia's JCRC as head of Turnipseed and Associates' Workers' Compensation Department, TOL Social Action Committee Chair, member of the URJ Southeast Region Social Action Committee, and past board member of the Midlands Chapter of Americans United for Separation of Church and State. A current WRJ (Sisterhood) Board member and mom to two grown sons (Bradley and David Wile) who grew up in the Jewish community in Columbia, Ilene says, "I am very excited and

honored to have this opportunity to serve as co-chair of the JCRC. I look forward to helping to provide leadership that will positively impact issues of concern to the Jewish community."



Larry Needle, a member and board member of Beth Shalom Synagogue, has more than twenty years of professional experience in immigration law, nationality law and employment law. He is an active member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and of the South Carolina State Bar Association. Larry has chaired the Immigration Law subsection of the Employment and Labor Law section of the South Carolina Bar Association, has served as Treasurer of the Carolinas Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, and speaks and writes extensively on immigration and

employment issues. He also serves as the Chairman of Israel Bonds in Columbia. Larry says that he is looking forward to working with the JCRC.

A committee of the CJF Board, the JCRC meets to discuss or take action on issues of anti-Semitism, racism, social issues of interest to the community, Israel, and interfaith relations.

The months of May and June saw a flurry of activity for the JCRC from evaluating our participation in rallies, to thanking our public officials for their diligence in passing the anti-BDS legislature, to notifying local Jewish organizations of anti-Semitic reviews being posted on Facebook. Our most significant accomplishment was participating in an interfaith task force to respond to Governor Haley's promotion of a Christian prayer rally held in Charleston in June. Together with religious and community leaders of multiple faiths, including (but not limited to) Christian, Jewish, Hindu, Pagan, and Native American, we developed a statement that received 30 signatures. We requested that Governor Haley to withdraw her participation as a state-elected official, asking her to respect the separation of church and state, as well as the multiple faiths practiced by her constituents. In addition to sending our statement directly to the Governor's office, members of our task force submitted op-eds to The State, which were published prior to the event. The Anti-Defamation League and Americans United for Separation of Church and State both commended our JCRC and interfaith task force for taking action. Though Haley still chose to pray from the platform of the rally in her official capacity as Governor, we are proud of the stand we took and will continue to respond to issues that impact our community.

In the coming months, the JCRC will meet to refine its mission and revise its bylaws. If you learn of any issues that you think should be brought to the JCRC's attention, contact me at cheryl@jewishcolumbia.org or 803.787.2023 x.211.



Mother Emanuel Hope Fund

#PrayForCharleston

During an already scheduled trip to Charleston to meet with College of Charleston Jewish Studies staff and our Federation counterparts, just five days following the horrific loss of nine lives, we took pause from our day's agenda to pay our respects at Mother Emanuel AME Church. Driving down Calhoun, we passed the public library, its front window adorned with a wreath of flowers in memory of xx, who worked in the library system for xx years. Blocks away from the church, what must have been thousands of flowers came into view and stretched as far as the eye could see. As we added our own flowers to the mix, we witnessed an outpouring of love and grief from people young and old and of all races. Multiple "Charleston United" canvases allowed people to share their condolences, and almost every inch was covered.

Federation, on behalf of the Columbia Jewish Community, has sent condolences and support to Mother Emanuel AME Church, as well as to every AME church in Columbia. If you would like to show your support in the form of a donation, you can find information on our website about the Mother Emanuel Hope Fund.

As Charleston begins to heal, our Community Relations Council is exploring how to best support efforts to remove the Confederate flag from Statehouse grounds. It's a small step, but an important one. We will continue to work to combat racism and take a firm stand against hate crimes.



CJF Website Featured at Town Hall

Cheryl Nail, CJF Community Relations Director

Have you noticed any new features on the Columbia Jewish Federation website? Web developers at Jewish Federations of North America have!

We were both thrilled and honored to receive a call in May informing us that our website would be featured at the June Virtual Town Hall of Federation staff. Lois Emanuelli, FedWeb Coordinator, said that two things particularly caught their eyes: the hero we customized (which is the slideshow you see on the homepage) and the code we wrote on the "donate" page that allows online donors to print their own tax receipts. "It's such a simple thing, but so smart!" Lois said. On June 13, 30 Federations from all over the United States – and even Canada – viewed our website and had the opportunity to ask us questions. Our "donate" page was also linked to June's FedWeb tips and tricks email that is sent to every Federation in North America.

A constant work in progress, we will be adding more features to the Federation website – including a blog! – throughout the summer. Bookmark www.jewishcolumbia.org or follow us on Facebook (JewishColumbia) to find out the latest from the Columbia Jewish Federation and community.



"Our hope is that the community will come together to grow fruits and vegetables.. for donation to the Jewish Food Pantry to go along with the non-perishable food that we provide to those in need."

With a Little Help from JFS

Laney Cohen, LMSW, JFS Director

Financial Aid

Every once in a while, we all have financial problems. This may be due to the loss of a job, failing health, or even the dishwasher unexpectedly breaking. When times get hard and money gets tight, Jewish Family Service (JFS) can help. JFS offers Emergency Assistance (in the form of no-interest loans) as well as a Tzedakah Fund.

There are several ways that this money can and has been used. This money is sometimes used to pay utility bills, rent payments, car repairs, as well as medication for those uninsured and in need.

Members of the Jewish community are allowed financial assistance one time per year through the Tzedakah Fund or an Emergency Loan. When a community member takes a loan through JFS, a payment plan is created, reviewed, and signed. The goal is to have all payments for the loan be reasonable and realistic for the payee. If the person receiving the loan feels as though they are unable to repay at the rate that was agreed upon, JFS will work with them. However, if these loans are not repaid, the money is not replenished, and then other members of our community in need may not receive enough assistance, if any. This means that their rent may go unpaid, their lights may be turned off, and they may become homeless. This circle of support helps recipients understand the importance of repayment.

Community Garden

Plans are in the works for a community garden to be located at the Katie and Irwin Kahn Jewish Community Center. Our hope is that the community will come together to grow fruits and vegetables for their table and for donation to the Jewish Food Pantry to go along with the non-perishable food that we provide to those in need.

If you are interested in learning more about how you can get involved with the community garden, or with the Tzedakah Fund, please contact Laney at 787-2023 ext 200 or jfs@jewishcolumbia.org.

Dementia/Alzheimer Support Group

Has your loved one been diagnosed with dementia or Alzheimer's?
Are you interested in the Jewish perspective on memory loss?
Would you like to share experiences with others who are also on this journey?

If so, please join us on Wednesday, July 15, 7:00-8:30 pm
in the library of Tree of Life Congregation
as part of a facilitated group that discusses issues of importance
to the family and caregivers of loved ones with memory loss.

RSVP to Donna Magaro at 803-781-9791 or donnamagaro@gmail.com.

South Carolina becomes first US state to take action against anti-Israel boycotts

Michael Wilner, *The Jerusalem Post*

Reprinted with permission from www.jpost.com

WASHINGTON – South Carolina's governor has signed into law a bill to stop efforts to boycott, divest and sanction Israel on Thursday afternoon, in a first for the nation on a statewide level.

The bill makes no mention of Israel directly, but prevents public entities from contracting with businesses engaging in the "boycott of a person or an entity based in or doing business with a jurisdiction with whom South Carolina can enjoy open trade."

The premise of the law is that the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement, colloquially known as BDS, discriminates against the people of Israel and weakens the economy of South Carolina.

"Boycott," for the purposes of the law, is defined as the effort by companies to "blacklist, divest from or otherwise refuse to deal with a person or firm when the action is based on race, color, religion, gender or national origin of the targeted person or entity," according to the text.

Companies also must agree not to engage in boycott activities going forward.

While South Carolina is the first state to adopt such a measure as law, several others are close behind: Illinois lawmakers passed similar legislation last month, also with unanimous support from state representatives.

Beyond Springfield and Columbia, "a bloc of sponsors across 18 states has already committed to introducing similar legislation in their next legislative cycle," according to Willem Griffioen, executive director of the Israel Allies Foundation (IAF), an organization aggressively engaged in the anti-BDS effort on the state level.

South Carolina Representative Alan Clemmons, who pioneered the legislation, commended Governor Nikki Haley for swiftly signing the bill.

"Discriminatory boycotts have historically been used as a form of economic warfare to forward the purposes of hatred and bigotry. The tactics employed by the Nazis serve as a poignant example," Clemmons said in a prepared statement. "In this day and age, no group better demonstrates this fact than the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement in its effort to harm our great ally, Israel."



"State law bars public entities from contracting with companies that boycott 'based on race, color, religion, gender or national origin.'"



Israel Bonds Dessert Reception *honoring the Central Carolina Community Foundation*

Thursday, August 27
7:30 pm
Columbia Marriott

\$36 per person

Chairs: Jane & David Kulbersh



"CJHI provides an opportunity to educate and engage the broader community in conversations about our past."

Columbia Jewish Heritage Initiative Receives \$20,000 Grant

Robin Waites, Executive Director of Historic Columbia

Columbia's rich Jewish history will be documented, shared and celebrated with the broader community, thanks to a major grant from the Central Carolina Community Foundation (CCCCF). The \$20,000 grant is part of CCCC's inaugural Connected Communities grant program that encouraged applicants to submit projects that would promote a more engaged, compassionate and connected community.

President and CEO of CCCC, JoAnn Turnquist noted, "The grant we've awarded will help Historic Columbia promote a more welcoming and vibrant community by celebrating our region's rich Jewish cultural history. We are delighted to provide funding for this outstanding program." The program to which Turnquist refers is the Columbia Jewish Heritage Initiative (CJHI) - a collaborative, multi-disciplinary project, which will document, as well as provide access to and awareness of, local Jewish history.

Panel and roundtable discussions are among the planned **vibrant social offerings** which will provide audiences access to engage with people who may be different from themselves and open the door to greater community connection and understanding. By investing in learning about one another's stories, participants will bond on the most basic level of respecting one another's humanity, resulting in a **community that is welcoming** of others in the truest form and one that promotes growth through openness. Guided walking/driving tours, a web-based tour, historic markers and the school-based traveling trunk program will highlight historic places such as the Hebrew Benevolent Cemetery, the Big Apple and buildings on Main and Assembly streets where Jewish merchants owned businesses. By assigning deeper meaning to these places, program participants will be able to connect in a new way with the **superb public spaces** that are part of the community fabric.

As Belinda and Richard Gergel explain in *In Pursuit of the Tree of Life: A History of the Early Jews of Columbia, South Carolina, and the Tree of Life Congregation* (1996), "The development of a vibrant Jewish Community in Columbia was no historical accident. From the inception of the Carolina Colony, Jews were made to feel welcome and were guaranteed religious liberty and citizenship rights long before these were secured in England or in most of the other colonies." This openness was extended to Jews from the earliest migration to South Carolina in the 1830s and has continued in various waves through the present day. While certain freedoms and opportunities have always been granted, there remains the need to break down stereotypes and demystify communities whose activities/cultural characteristics/etc. have been historically misunderstood by the majority of citizens. Ultimately CJHI provides an opportunity to educate and engage the broader community in conversations about our past in a way that will help build a more cohesive, inclusive and empathetic citizenry that is connected to place in a deeper, more authentic way.

To learn more about CJHI or to get involved visit www.historiccolumbia.org/CJHI or like our Facebook Page: Columbia Jewish Heritage Initiative.

Columbia Jewish Heritage Initiative Partners



Searching for Words After the Unspeakable

Micah Feinstein, NFTY-SAR Social Action Vice President

Reprinted with permission from Religious Action Center - blogs.rj.org



Charleston, South Carolina is a quaint coastal city where many families, like mine, head for a reinvigorating weekend escape. Similarly, a house of worship is where one goes to find solace in times of need. On Wednesday night, June 17, 2015, a single gunman shot through this idyllic safe haven, opening fire on congregants attending a prayer meeting at one of the oldest black churches in the nation, Emanuel AME in Charleston, leaving nine dead and millions more with questions.

How could this place of peace be so violated? From schools to movie theatres to houses of worship how can these places of safety and community become scenes of violent crimes? Why have these horrendous crimes become commonplace?

This news has become all too familiar. We are momentarily saddened by a tragedy in someone else's community. But this could've been my community; this could have occurred two hours up the road in my home of Columbia, SC. This could've been my temple; my house of worship. Investigations have been opened into whether this was a hate crime – these violent, horrific acts affect us all, regardless of the targets. We must begin thinking as though it was our own community targeted, our own sanctuary. We shouldn't need this to happen in our own communities to force us into action. We must realize that it is our responsibility—especially because these acts of hate and ignorance are too familiar in Jewish history, and we know a pain like this too well—to speak up against these violent acts.

The Torah teaches "You may not stand idly by when your neighbor's blood is being shed... You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against your countrymen. Love your neighbor as yourself" (Leviticus 19:16-18).

Hate crimes often result from ignorance and prejudice; a lack of concern— a lack of love— given from neighbor to neighbor. As I learned at the RAC this week: empathy and education are the first steps to taking action. I hope we take this catastrophe as an opportunity to create a more understanding dialogue to prevent future crimes bred from ignorance and hate. May we use the tragic events of Emanuel AME as a renewed call to live by the words of the Torah and to truly love our neighbors as ourselves.

"May we use the tragic events of Emanuel AME as a renewed call to live by the words of the Torah and to truly love our neighbors as ourselves."

Camp Gesher

Shelley Kriegshaber, Columbia Jewish News Editor

Risa Strauss, Camp Gesher Director

It was such a great feeling recently while I was attending a work function for Richland Two and the head of the child development program stopped me to thank me for what the Jewish Community Center had done for so many families in the school district. I looked at her with a blank stare and asked her to tell me about it.

One of the many programs that School District Richland Two runs for its children and their parents and guardians is a Grandparents Helping Grandparents support group. This group, facilitated by District employees Susan Kirby and Marie Tanis, provides programming and much needed support for grandparents who are raising their grandchildren. This special group received a government grant to provide respite for these elderly caregivers over the summer in the form of camp tuition. Camp Gesher at the JCC was honored to be chosen to be a participatory day camp in this wonderful endeavor. Twenty-one grandchildren are attending Camp Gesher for eight weeks this summer as a result of this program and their tuition is covered by this grant.

The woman I was speaking with said the impact was tremendous and that they were so grateful for the support. I can't tell you how proud I was to hear what our Center is doing in the community!



"The JCC aims to provide meaningful, Jewish experiences for everyone... We are here to serve YOU, our local Jewish community! "

Summer, Love, the JCC and YOU

***Laurie Slack,
JCC Jewish Programs Director***

There are a few things better than the sweetness of a Southern summer. The fireflies, the sweet tea sipped leisurely on a porch, tending a patch of tomatoes, smelling honeysuckle on a warm evening breeze, tying string around a June bug and watching it go, long late evenings spent with friends, neighbors and family feeling the pace of everyday life slow down just a little: the long days stretching into long, sticky months are both ingrained into my childhood memories and my adult appreciation on these hot months. And how many of us have fond memories of summertime at the JCC? The days around the pool, the camp sing-alongs, meeting up with friends for fun and games: the JCC was and is a place that anchors our Jewish community together, especially in the summer.

You're Invited!

I invite all our families to come out on July 12th for the JCC's annual Pizza and Pool party. School is out, Hebrew school is on break, and many of our families live far apart. Come reconnect with friends old and new and relax with cheese pizza, snacks, and playing in the pool. We'll gather from 11:30 to 1:30 pm. This program is free for members of the JCC (another perk of membership!); \$10 per guest family to help offset the cost of the pizza.

A Special Treat for Adults

A special treat for adults, especially those who are interested in gardening and the natural world, is a talk by Dr. John Mandsager, Post-Doctoral Fellow at USC, entitled "The Order and the Beauty of the Jewish Garden in the Roman Empire" on Thursday, July 16th at 7 pm. Dr. Mandsager will show how early rabbinic Jewish literature (ca. 3rd century C.E.) presents a sophisticated spatial vision of Jewish rural life. He will discuss the garden in particular to show how the early rabbis imagine agricultural space to be well-ordered, while visually communicating the Jewish farmer's Jewishness.

The Holiday of Love

I'll be honest, although I love the pool and I also love gardens, I'm most excited about a brand new program and celebration we'll be holding at the JCC in July just for families with children. We'll be holding a special family dance in honor of Tu B'Av, the Israeli holiday of love on Thursday, July 30th at 5:30 pm. Dress up in your fancy clothes and celebrate love with a kid-friendly dinner, fun music, Israeli dancing, love themed goodie bags, and surprise guest visits by a (very awesome) mystery guest or two! \$5 per person (with a family max of \$25) includes dinner, a commemorative photo (emailed after the dance) and all the fun! This dance is co-sponsored by the Katie & Irwin Kahn JCC and PJ Library of the Columbia Jewish Federation.

Healthy Kids, Happy Families

In August, we'll be hosting Dr. Deborah Greenhouse for a round table discussion for parents entitled, "Healthy Kids, Happy Families." Just in time for back-to-school, Dr. Greenhouse will provide tips on keeping your family healthy and happy and will take questions from parents – anything goes! While parents meet with Dr. Greenhouse, kids will be having fun with a session of PJ Library stories and activities. We'll even provide a light and healthy dinner to those who RSVP. Healthy Kids, Happy Families will take place on Tuesday, August 11 at 6:30 pm at the JCC. This event is free and open to everyone.

Keep Calm and Craft On!

Craft and Kvell, everyone's favorite way to get away and do some awesome adult crafting, will return to the JCC on Sunday, August 23rd.

Is Something Missing?

Is something missing that you'd like to see? The JCC aims to provide meaningful, Jewish experiences for everyone. If you have an idea you'd like to see come to fruition or a Jewish itch you'd like to scratch but don't know how to reach, please let us know and we'll either point you in the right direction or get something started! We are here to serve YOU, our local Jewish community!

Have a great summer!

The 2015 Columbia Jewish Film Festival is Coming!

*Heidi and David Lovit,
Film Festival Co-Chairs*

This year The Columbia Jewish Film Festival will be celebrating its 15th year of showcasing Jewish movies. We are making some exciting changes: we are thrilled to announce the 2015 Festival will take place in November. This move allows the Nickelodeon staff to be more involved with us, but most importantly it enables us to spread out the movies over a three week period. This schedule change and the increased time span will increase our attendance as well as the return on your sponsorship investment.

The opening night party will be held Sunday, November 1, 2015 in celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Katie and Irwin Kahn Jewish Community Center. This event will be held at the JCC and plans are already being made for an evening of entertainment.

The remainder of the Film Festival will be held at the Nickelodeon Theater as scheduled:

*Tuesday, Nov. 3 at 5:30 & 8:00 pm
Sunday, Nov. 8 at 3:00, 5:30 & 8:00 pm
Monday, Nov. 9 at 5:30 & 8:00 pm
Tuesday, Nov. 17 at 5:30 & 8:00 pm*

Also new this year, we are inviting all high school age students to compete in a short film competition. Winning entries will be showcased on Sunday, November 8 at 3:00 pm at the Nickelodeon. The theme, "Freedom, at any cost?" provides a framework for young filmmakers to explore which also promotes dialogue and creativity while addressing issues that are in the forefront of today's headlines.

Watch your mailbox this summer for more updates and a full list of films. Of course we welcome your financial support now as well (mail us at The Columbia Jewish Film Festival, 306 Flora Drive, Columbia, SC 29223).

Executive Producer - \$1000

- Listing in movie playbill
- Recognition at Party
- 4 Festival tickets to all movies & Party
- Reserved seating for all movies

Director - \$500

- Listing in movie playbill
- Recognition at Party
- 3 Festival tickets to all movies & Party

Production Crew - \$300

- Listing in movie playbill
- 2 Festival tickets to all movies & Party

Festival Pass - \$150

- Listing in movie playbill
- 1 Festival ticket to all movies & Party

Friends of the Festival - \$18 - \$100

- Listing in movie playbill

MOVIE SPONSORS

\$500

- Movie shown once
- Sponsor receives 2 Festival Passes

\$750

- Movie shown twice
- Sponsor receives 3 Festival Passes

We look forward to seeing you at the movies!

www.columbiajewishfilmfestival.com

Announcing a Short Film Competition for SC High School Student Filmmakers!

Make a short film with the theme: Freedom: At What Cost?

Entries are now being accepted!
Deadline for entries is midnight October 1, 2015!

cash prizes!
1st place: \$500
2nd place: \$300
3rd place: \$200

HOW TO ENTER

- Create a short film using the theme: Freedom: At What Cost?
- Read the contest rules in detail at www.columbiajewishfilmfestival.com/shortfilmcompetition and follow them all.
- Upload your film to either Youtube or Vimeo.
- Tag your video with "CJ Film Festival" once you've uploaded it.
- Complete and submit the official registration form found at www.columbiajewishfilmfestival.com/shortfilmcompetition

CONTEST RULES

- Each entrant must be a high school student (grades 9-12) currently living in SC.
- Each entrant may only enter once.
- Films must be at least 3 minutes long, and no longer than 6 minutes.
- Films must abide by PG-13 guidelines.

QUESTIONS?? Email cjfilmfestival@gmail.com

A screening of the winning films and presentations of awards will be at the Nickelodeon Theater on Sunday, November 8, 2015 at 3:00 pm. Filmmakers and their guests will be invited to walk the red carpet!

Sponsored by the Nickelodeon Theater and the Columbia Jewish Film Festival.

FILMS WILL BE JUDGED ON THE FOLLOWING

- Creativity
- Overall quality & production value
- Use of theme



KOL HAKAVOD כל הכבוד TO OUR 2015 CAMPAIGN DONORS*

TODAH RABAH תודה רבה TO OUR 2015 CAMPAIGN DONORS*

THANK YOU FOR INVESTING YOUR RESOURCES IN—AND DEMONSTRATING YOUR COMMITMENT TO—OUR LOCAL JEWISH COMMUNITY AND THE WELL-BEING OF JEWS IN ISRAEL, EUROPE AND AROUND THE WORLD.

IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO.

MEN'S DIVISION

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SUMMER 2015/5775
JULY 6 - JULY 31

THE JEWISH CAMP GAN ISRAEL OF COLUMBIA, SC

KEY



MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

WEEK 1

WEEK 2

WEEK 3

WEEK 4

7:55
FIRST DAY OF CGI
SPORTS
FUN SHOPS

13
TOPSY TURVY DAY
FUN SHOPS
SPORTS

20
TWIN DAY
FUN SHOPS
SPORTS

27
FUN SHOPS
SPORTS
FRIENDSHIP DAY

7
EdVenture
Children's Museum
SWIM

14
BOWLING
Bring books
SWIM

21
MARIONETTE THEATER
PALAMA DAY

28
SWIM
SCSM
SOUTH CAROLINA STATE MUSEUM

8
CRAZY HAT & HAIR DAY

15
GAN IZZY'S GOT TALENT

22
SHOW CONE TRUCK
SPORTS
FUN SHOPS

29
MAKE YOUR OWN SMOOTHIE
FUN SHOPS
SPORTS

9
SWIM
FUN SHOPS

16
FARM
SWIM

23
MAD SCIENCE
PUSH DRESS UP
HAMANTASHEN

30
FT. JACKSON WATER PARK
SWIM

10
SHABBAT PARTY
CHALLAH BAKING
ART
MUSIC
SEAN FINEY & CHITNEY AUCTION

17
SHABBAT PARTY
CHALLAH BAKING
ART
MUSIC
MOCK WEDDING

24
SHABBAT PARTY
CHALLAH BAKING
ART
MUSIC
CARNIVAL

31
SHABBAT PARTY
CHALLAH BAKING
ART
MUSIC
LAST DAY OF CAMP

Under Construction

Rabbi Meir Muller, Ph.D., CJDS Principal



CUTLER JEWISH DAY SCHOOL

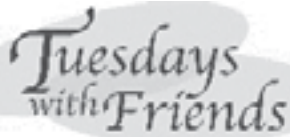
As I write this in early June, I am imagining contractors, carpenters, electricians, plumbers, heavy machinery, trucks and other elements of construction crews busy building the addition to the Cutler Jewish Day School.

The school is widely known for all of its great accomplishments; multiple national and state accreditations, an award winning early childhood program, progressive elementary school, and the only private elementary school that USC assigns student teachers to intern. However, the school has had one reoccurring challenge, physical space.

Since 2010 the school has increased enrollment by 45%. With 155 students currently enrolled the school has surpassed all registration projections. Over five years ago the school leadership and board noted that the enrollment would quickly outpace the physical space. Thanks to the wonderful partners at the Beth Shalom Synagogue the school signed a thirty-year lease and immediately began planning an expansion of the building.

Under the guidance of Mike Arnold and Kay Gross, the Cutler Jewish Day School expansion plan is a reality! Whenever thinking of the new school I remember that Mr. Cutler (may his memory be blessed) and Mrs. Cutler (may she live and be well) are the guiding force that made these plans possible.

If the project remains on the timeline projected, we should have a state of the art preschool constructed by December and then the Norman and Gerry Sue Arnold Elementary School completed next summer. While writing this in early June, I need to close my eyes and imagine the construction. Hopefully, as you read this in late summer you can drive by the school and see the dirt being moved.



Tuesdays with Friends

Beth Shalom Synagogue, 5827 N. Trenholm Road

Senior Program—Everyone Welcome
Come Enjoy the Fun, Food & Friendship



Tuesday, July 7, 2015
11:30 am-1 pm

**Featuring Guitarist,
Marina Alexander**

*There is no charge to attendees
thanks to the generous donation made by
Sandra Annette Kandel & family -
In loving memory of Rabbi Edward R. Kandel
and in honor of our grandchildren.*

Tuesday, August 4, 2015
11:30 am-1 pm

**BINGO and musical performance
by the Camp Geshet children**

*There is no charge to attendees
thanks to the generous donation made by
Bobbi & Gad Matzner & family -
In loving memory of their parents,
Etta Frank and Kurt Lichtenstein
and in honor of Robert Frank.*

Tuesday, September 1, 2015
11:30 am-1 pm

Rosh Hashanah Celebration

*There is no charge to attendees thanks to the generous donation made by
Dolores Friedman & family - In loving memory of Sig Friedman.*

We are happy to try and arrange transportation upon request. We can now also offer the use of a handicapped van, if needed. Requests for transportation must be made one week prior to the program. To RSVP or make transportation requests, please call the office at 782-2500.



This program is funded in part with a grant from the BJH Foundation for Senior Services, the DayBreak Adult Care Services, and the SC Respite Coalition, in conjunction with the Lt. Governor's Office on Aging.

The BJH Foundation for Senior Services is a non-profit foundation exclusively committed to enhancing the lives of Jewish elderly residing in North and South Carolina through programs, activities and organizations that share their mission in accordance with Jewish practices and beliefs.

Beth Shalom Synagogue Religious School News

We are now registering
for the 2015-2016 religious school year.

Register and pay (in full) for tuition for your child(ren)
by July 31st
to receive an "early bird" discount of 5% off.
(You may only receive the discount
if all past religious school fees are paid in full.)

For more information
contact the office at 782-2500.

Mazal Tov!

Laurel Raxter to become a Bat Mitzvah
Saturday, August 1, 2015
9:30 a.m.

and

Michael Hammer to become a Bar Mitzvah
Saturday, August 29, 2015
9:30 a.m.



Shalom to Rabbi Linda Joseph

We are excited and honored to welcome Rabbi Linda Joseph to our Temple family. Rabbi Joseph will serve as interim Rabbi of Tree of Life Congregation for at least one year. Aside from her many rabbinical duties, Rabbi Joseph will also be teaching our 10th-grade Confirmation class and will be involved in all aspects of our Religious School. She is very much looking forward to getting to know our congregants, school, parents, students and staff. With warmth and anticipation we are very much looking forward to working with Rabbi Joseph and learning with her. We wish her a Yasher Koach as she embarks on her new role as Rabbi for Tree of Life Congregation.

Summer Learning

Tisha B'Av (the ninth of the Jewish month of Av) is generally a summer time observance that, this year because the ninth is a Shabbat, actually falls on the tenth of Av, which is July 26. On this day we, according to custom, fast and mourn the destruction of both Temples in Jerusalem. The first by the Babylonians in 586 BCE and the second by the Romans in 70 CE—as well as our people's exile and dispersion into the diaspora. There are other catastrophes associated with the ninth of Av, including the expulsion of the Jews from Spain during the Spanish Inquisition. There are a number of fast days on the Jewish calendar, but the ninth of Av is a major player and is ranked perhaps only second to Yom Kippur in meaning.

The weeks preceding Tisha B'Av are a time of reflection. During each Shabbat at this time, a special Haftarah is read relating to destruction and retribution. And the Shabbat before is called *Shabbat Hazon* because we read from the Book of *Isaiah* and it begins with the word *Hazon*: the vision.

Isaiah's prophecies often included pleas for the Jewish people to be good. Isaiah had some of the strongest words ever written about God, religion and justice. He told of visions of God and images of an apocalypse that might occur because of the failure of the people of Israel to keep God's laws. Tisha B'Av is marked traditionally by strict mourning practices and the reading of the Book of *Lamentations-Eicha*, from the prophet Jeremiah.



Thank You

- A special todah to all Religious School board members and co-chairs Yuliana Iskhakov and Dana Cason for all the hard work they did this year and every year. Your efforts NEVER go unnoticed and are very much appreciated.
- Todah to all who helped make our Confirmation Ceremony and Shavuot Service so warm and beautiful, and to our 10th-grade students (*pictured left*) for their efforts.
- *Yasher Koach* to all worked on the Shalom to the Sherman Family Event. It was a memorable and beautiful evening.

Please mark your calendars to celebrate a Summer Bar Mitzvah at TOL:

Friday, August 17, 7:30 pm: Bar Mitzvah of Jhian Novinbakht — Mazal Tov to the Novinbakht Family!

Dinner, Havdalah and Trivia!

Who: Anyone and everyone!

What: Enjoy a mid summer-Temple activity: dinner, *havdalah* (beautiful ceremony ending the Sabbath and welcoming the coming week) and a fun, slightly competitive Team Trivia (all topics covered, great fun for all). There will be prizes and childcare for up to Grade 5. Build your own team, or we will find a team for you!

Only \$5 per person for dinner and \$5 PER FAMILY for childcare.

When: Saturday evening, July 18 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Where: Tree of Life Congregation

For more info on dinner (pizza, salad, cake and ice cream bar—if you have dietary restrictions we will accommodate your needs) and to RSVP by July 16, call Risa at 787-2182, 476-7487, or email at risa@tolsc.org.

Seeds of Hope Farmers Market

Thursday mornings, through early August, 8AM-12 Noon

Support our farmer Louis Reid by purchasing beautiful fruits and vegetables from the Temple parking lot.

Summer Hebrew Workouts

Contact Risa at 787-2182 to schedule your time!

First Day of Religious School: Sunday, September 20, 2015

BBYO Remembers / Regional BBYO Events

Jerry Emanuel, AZA Advisor and Tamar Sternfeld, Regional Director, Dixie Council



The Lena Karesh Chapter, BBG invites SC Supreme Court Chief Justice Jean Toal to speak to the Jewish Community, 2000.



Members of the AZA and BBG chapters help landscape the new JCC, 2008.

You too can make memories like these.
Join BBYO and plan your next fun program.
For more information contact Jerry Emanuel (jemassoc@juno.com)
or Tammy Bergman (tamtam9278@gmail.com).

B'NAI BRITH YOUTH ORGANIZATION (BBYO)

Dixie Council Activities Calendar 2015-2016

August 21-23	Regional Execs @ Camp Weaver (all Council Board members)
September 5 (Saturday night only)	Labor Day Dance in Charleston
October 16-18	MIT-AIT @ Camp Weaver (new members, Council Presidents, Council Moreh and MIT Mom, and Steering Committee only)
November 6-8	Southern Region Convention @ Camp Rock Eagle
November 20-22	Junior/Senior @ Camp Weaver (for Juniors and Seniors only)
Saturday night TBD in January	Savannah Dance
February 11-15	International Convention in Baltimore
March 11-13	Spring Convention @ Hotel in Charleston or Savannah
April 15-17	Kallah with Cotton States Region and Atlanta Council

Come On, Get Happy!

Joe Russ & Robyn Bader O'Donnell

Wow, what can we say? Another great happy hour is in the books for YAD. The monthly happy hour in May took place at Jake's Bar and Grill - a local bar that allows your furry friends! This one had it all: great drinks, lounging on the deck and an afternoon of sunshine. There was a great turnout with many familiar faces, some new, and some furry! Most of us met at Jake's around 5:30 for drinks. We had a blast getting to know each other and talking about future summer plans and the many recent weddings. No one minded the heat, despite temperatures reaching record highs. Thanks to all who came out!

Keep checking YAD's Facebook page for future happy hours and other events.

If you are interested in a certain event or hosting a Shabbat dinner, please email YADCJF@gmail.com with ideas or interests.



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The *Columbia Jewish News* apologizes for the inadvertent misspellings of three JCC Golf Classic sponsors, originally listed in the May-June 2015 issue:

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"Know someone who is looking at colleges? Tell them YES, the University of South Carolina IS a destination for Jewish students."

Jewish USC

Cheryl Nail,
CJF Community Relations Director

What comes to mind when you think of the University of South Carolina? Football? The Horseshoe? Garnet and black? I'm guessing that whatever comes to mind, "Jewish life" isn't high on your list. That's something we're striving to change!

A New Partnership

The Columbia Jewish Federation is working to support and grow Jewish life on campus, in conjunction with student leaders from Hillel and AEPi; the newly formed Jewish Faculty/Staff Council under the leadership of Dr. Adam Doberne-Schor; Dr. Stan Dubinsky from the Jewish Studies program; Rabbi Sruly and Shlomit Epstein from Chabad of USC (see sidebar for more on this campus Chabad house); our community rabbis; and USC leadership, specifically in Student Affairs and Admissions.

Jewish USC Becomes More Visible

At the beginning of our collaboration this spring, Jewish USC students enjoyed Shabbat dinners twice a month; participated in a weekly "what it means to be a Jewish student" discussion facilitated by a rabbi; and enjoyed multiple social activities from bowling to trivia. They lit candles (pictured below) and participated in an AEPi Memory Walk to commemorate Yom HaShoah; celebrated Purim and Passover together; and enjoyed Purim and Passover care packages, provided by Federation and the Jewish Faculty/Staff Council. They also performed community service projects in the greater Columbia Jewish community, serving food at Beth Shalom Synagogue's Bubbie's Brisket and making campaign phone calls during Federation's Super Sunday.



We are reaching out to Jewish students and their families at the very start of their USC career, acquainting them with the many opportunities to have a vibrant Jewish life on campus and in the community. We were visible at 19 freshman and transfer student orientations on campus this summer, with over 9,922 people in attendance. Every incoming student has seen Hillel's name through advertising in their orientation resource guide, on the big screen as part of their orientation slideshow, and at the resource fair.



The "Jewish USC" table at the orientation resource fair gave incoming students a chance to customize a garnet mezuzah, learn about Jewish campus and community resources, and share their areas of Jewish interest.

Looking Forward

Federation, members of the Jewish Faculty/Staff Council, and USC development officers are currently working on creating an Educational Foundation Fund to financially support Jewish life on campus. Jewish organizations on and off campus are working even more closely together to provide numerous Jewish experiences

for students, some of which will be open to alumni and the greater community - so keep an eye out for details. We are also exploring options to get housing for Hillel and to start a Jewish sorority chapter on campus.

It Takes a Village

Jewish college students are tomorrow's synagogue presidents and Federation executive directors. Be part of the village that supports our next generation of Jewish leaders: Sponsor a Shabbat dinner, host USC students for Rosh HaShanah, share your expertise at a student program, or volunteer your time to make care packages for the Jewish holidays. Contact me at 787.2023 x. 211 or cheryl@jewishcolumbia.org to offer your support.

Most importantly, spread the word. Know someone who is looking at colleges? Tell them YES, the University of South Carolina IS a destination for Jewish students.



For more information on Jewish USC, visit www.jewishcolumbia.org/usc.



Chabad of USC

*Rabbi Sruly Epstein,
Religious Worker*



Chabad of the University of South Carolina, a division of Chabad of SC, first opened its doors in February of this past year with the goal of providing a warm, respectful, and inclusive environment of Jewish awareness and education. A place where all Jewish students and faculty members, regardless of background, affiliation or level of observance, would feel welcome.

The Chabad House is conveniently located in close proximity to the campus grounds, and is staffed by Rabbi Sruly and Shlomit Epstein, who are committed to the teachings of the Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, the founder and leader of the Chabad Outreach Movement. With over 220 outreach centers on major college campuses across the world, Chabad aims to provide educational experiences, holiday services, social events, and of course, home-cooked Shabbat and holiday meals to Jewish students and faculty on campus. Chabad of USC believes that providing our students with a meaningful, inclusive and educational Jewish experience during these formative years, is the most effective grass-roots method of countering the increasing indifference, apathy and assimilation that face our young community today.

Chabad of USC's inaugural semester featured many inspiring, enriching and fun-filled moments, including homemade Shabbat dinners, a traditional Purim party (pictured below), and other social and educational events. With a new, larger location on the horizon and an exciting array of Shabbat, holiday, social events and programs planned for this coming semester, Chabad of USC is proud to serve as a home-away-from-home for all Jewish members of the Gamecock nation.



COLLEGE LIFE (AEPi, Hillel, Jewish Studies)

FAMILY FUN AT THE JCC



BEAT THE HEAT AT THE JCC!
POOL & PIZZA
Summer Spectacular

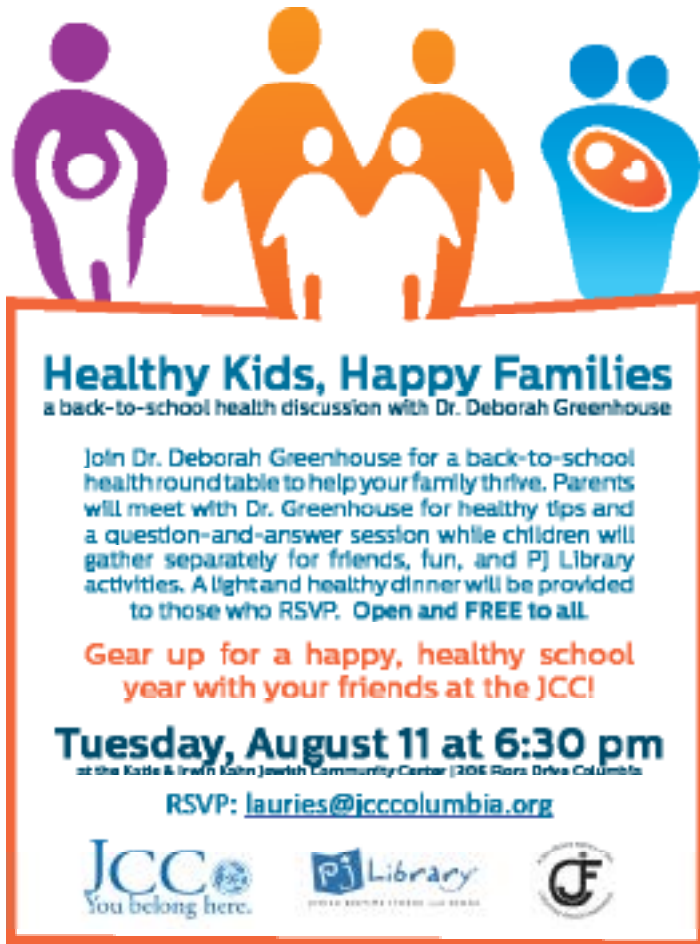
**SUNDAY,
JULY 12**
11:30 am -
1:30 pm

Family Fun
at the JCC!

Join us for a Pizza and Pool Party -- bring your favorite pool toys for an afternoon of play with friends. We'll provide cheese pizza and drinks. Please RSVP.

FREE for JCC Members
\$10 per guest family

RSVP to the JCC Front Desk or call 787-2023
Please RSVP so we can have enough pizza on hand!



Healthy Kids, Happy Families
a back-to-school health discussion with Dr. Deborah Greenhouse

Join Dr. Deborah Greenhouse for a back-to-school health roundtable to help your family thrive. Parents will meet with Dr. Greenhouse for healthy tips and a question-and-answer session while children will gather separately for friends, fun, and PJ Library activities. A light and healthy dinner will be provided to those who RSVP. Open and FREE to all.

Gear up for a happy, healthy school year with your friends at the JCC!

Tuesday, August 11 at 6:30 pm
at the Katie & Irwin Kohn Jewish Community Center | 2016 River Drive Columbia

RSVP: lauries@jcccolumbia.org

JCC You belong here. PJ Library Jewish Family Service of Columbia



JCC 2nd Annual Kite Festival

Melanie Pace,
Membership

We had a wonderful time flying kites on a beautiful, breezy Spring day at the JCC's 2nd Annual Kite Festival on Sunday, April 26. Thank you to all the families who came to support the JCC, and the many who brought canned food donations

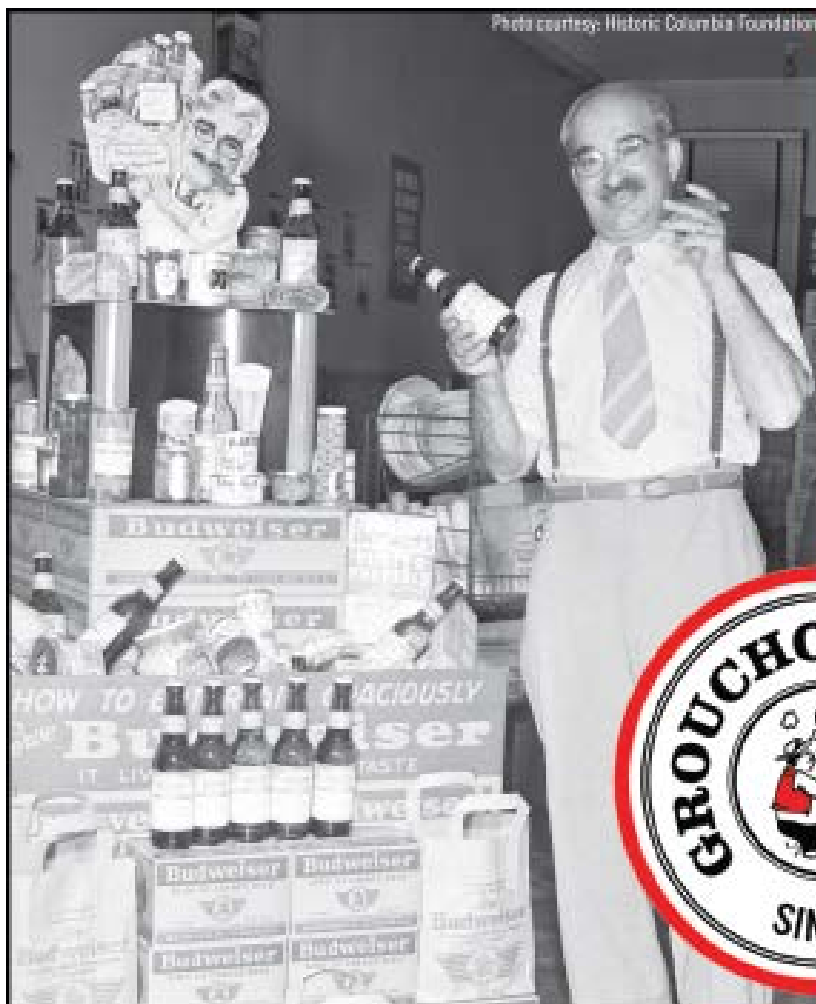
for Jewish Family Service and Harvest Hope Food Pantry. Kite contests included the highest flying kite, longest flying kite, and most unique kite. Winners received a JCC sports bag, t-shirt, and free pass to the J. Our 22-acre "back yard" was filled with families playing with Frisbees, gliders, and bubbles, as well as games of corn hole. PJ Library of the Columbia Jewish Federation helped children make Israeli wind socks in celebration of Israel Independence Day. Thank you to Jay & Linda Price for sponsoring this exciting event for the JCC. We look forward to flying kites with you again next Spring!



Our epic Ice Cream Mount Sinai was bigger than ever this year. Over 50 people consumed 24 ice cream sandwiches, 1.5 gallons of Neapolitan ice cream, half a gallon of birthday cake ice cream, and one pint of cookies and cream ice cream. Three bottles of flavored syrup were consumed along with a tub of sprinkles, two jars of maraschino cherries, a pack of twizzlers, half a bag of animal crackers, a bag of gingerbread men, a package of Milano cookies, and a pack of graham crackers which had been crushed into "sand." It was quite a sundae!



*From Galaxies, Comets, Milky Ways, and Star Bursts, Camp Geshur is having a BLAST this summer!
For more Camp Geshur photos, visit www.facebook.com/CampGeshurColumbia.*



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COLUMBIA AREA LOCATIONS

- 811 Hampton Street - Columbia
- 111 Sparkleberry Crossing Road #8 - Columbia
- 2203 Sunset Blvd. - West Columbia
- 4717 Forest Drive - Forest Acres
- 117 1/2 E. Main Street - Lexington
- 738 University Village Drive - Blythewood
- 400 Lake Murray Blvd. - Irmo
- 128-B Antelope Ferry Road - Chapin



LUCK *of the* DRAW

JCC 
You belong here.

LABOR DAY RAFFLE

RAFFLE AWARDS - POOL PARTY - BBQ

LABOR DAY: SEPTEMBER 7, 2015
3 PM - 6 PM

Back "due" to popular demand!
YOU COULD WIN UP TO \$5,000!

Here's how it works:

\$100 per ticket. Purchase from Front Desk Member Services.
Maximum 500 tickets sold. If all the tickets sell, the lucky winner will get \$5,000!
If 300 sell, the winner gets \$3,000. The minimum grand prize will be \$1,000, if
100 tickets or less are sold. The first ticket drawn gets a consolation prize of \$150.
Every 50th ticket wins a prize. The next to last ticket will get 10% of the Grand
Prize value (\$500 max). The last ticket will win the Grand Prize, up to \$5,000!

Raffle Ticket and Event Admission: \$100
Event Admission Only: \$15 single | \$25 couple | \$35 family

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