



COLUMBIA JEWISH News



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Tammuz/Av/Elul 5772

A Publication of the Columbia Jewish Federation

www.jewishcolumbia.org

Shep Cutler named Distinguished Service Award Honoree



The Columbia Jewish Federation is proud to announce that Shep Cutler has been selected for the 2012 CJF Distinguished Service Award. The selection committee included past winners and was headed up by last year's honoree Dr. Lilly Filler. Shep will be honored at the Federation Campaign Kickoff this fall. The next issue of the Columbia Jewish News will have all of the details. Congratulations to Shep for a well-deserved recognition.

1st Annual Joint JCC/Federation Meeting/Cookout



Board members from the Columbia Jewish Federation and the Katie and Irwin Kahn Jewish Community Center combined their meetings in June. Each group held a brief meeting and then enjoyed a cookout and some community trivia. The event is part of a push by the Federation and the JCC to work collaboratively and bring the community together.

Rick Recht,
“the ultimate in Jewish Rock,”
is coming to Columbia
for a FREE concert!



rickrecht
www.rickrecht.com
the ultimate in jewish rock.

See page 9 for details.

The Jewish News Goes Digital!

In an effort to “go green,” the *Columbia Jewish News* is now offering a digital subscription. Enjoy the same great news about the Columbia Jewish Community in your inbox. If you would prefer to read the news online, please sign up at www.jewishcolumbia.org. As a digital subscriber, you will receive an email when the newspaper has been posted online for viewing.

Thank you to our first 45 digital subscribers! Three lucky ones were randomly selected and are the winners of a free movie pass to Regal Cinemas at Sandhill. Congratulations to Gail Ginsberg, Pat Lovit, and Garry Baum, and thank you for “going digital!”

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Birthright trip,
on pages 8-9.



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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 newspaper.

The deadline for articles, life cycle announcements, photos, and advertising for the September/October issue of *Columbia Jewish News* is August 10. Email articles to cjc@jewishcolumbia.org. Photos should be emailed as high-resolution jpeg files. Announcements should not exceed 100 words.

We welcome all voices from our community. If you would like to contribute to *Columbia Jewish News*, contact Cheryl Nail at cjc@jewishcolumbia.org. The editorial staff has the right to edit all articles submitted for publication. Articles should not exceed 500 words. It is not guaranteed that all submissions will be published.

We've helped over
275,000 young
Jews strengthen
their roots in Israel.
Thanks to donors
like you, here's
eight of our own.

USC Hillel
Birthright
May 2012



From farm-focused, eco-Israel experiences to Birthright and MASA programs, Jewish Federation is actively supporting innovative new projects that inspire a deep love of Israel and Jewish life. It's a successful strategy we apply to every issue we tackle. From feeding the hungry and helping the unemployed to supporting local Jewish education, together we do a world of good. **Donate. Volunteer. Make a difference today.**



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For a complete and up-to-date
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What Will Be Your Legacy?

Giving (tzedakah) is at the core of Jewish life. For millennia, Jewish dreamers have passed on that tradition to their children through their words and deeds. They have left their legacy in the organizations and services that have nourished us, strengthened us, guided us, and taught us during our lifetimes.



You learned well from their example. Through your generosity of spirit and resources, you have continued the sacred work of repairing our world. You have fed the hungry, educated the young, uplifted the lonely, protected the persecuted, and cared for the elderly. You have fought for justice and fairness and furthered scientific understanding. Whatever you have done, you have done with passion.

So how will you turn that passion into your legacy?

It's never too early to share your dreams and your passions with future generations. Call the Columbia Jewish Federation today.

Contact the Columbia Jewish Federation
at 787-2023 or cjfoffice@jewishcolumbia.org
to start a conversation about how you can join
others in the *Create a Jewish Legacy* effort.

**Your dreams...your passion...
your legacy.**

Columbia Jewish Federation news

Federation News

By Shelley Kriegshaber,
President
of the Columbia Jewish Federation



I hope everyone is enjoying their summer, getting together with friends and family, taking time for a getaway, or reading some good books and relaxing at home. It's also a time to keep in mind that many families in our Jewish community are less fortunate and are struggling each day. Jewish Family Service, which is part of the Columbia Jewish Federation, is here to help them. JFS provides professional services, resources, and referrals to anyone facing a life challenge and needing a helping hand. The food pantry has also served many in our community with their next meal. We are so fortunate to have director Laney Cohen, whose compassion and love for our community have brought help, hope, and joy to many families.

By the time you receive this issue of the *Columbia Jewish News*, Federation will have hosted two candidates for the position of Executive Director, recently vacated by Erica Serbin. Members of the search committee have put time and effort into trying to find the best person for the job. During their visits, the candidates will meet rabbis, lunch with young leaders, have an evening get-together with the Federation board, meet with the staff, tour the Jewish community, see sites in Columbia, and meet with many of our top donors. As we interview them, they also interview us. They want to make sure Columbia is a good fit and that our Federation is a place where they want to make their next career move. Hopefully my next article will introduce you to our new Executive Director of the Columbia Jewish Federation.

The Federation recently held its first ever joint meeting and cookout with the Katie and Irwin Kahn Jewish Community Center. It was great to get the two groups together for some community building and bonding. And if you are a fan of Rick Recht, he's coming to Columbia! The top touring musician in Jewish music will be here for a joint effort for a PJ Library concert in conjunction with the JCC Book Fair.

Finally, I am so thrilled that Shep Cutler was selected as the next recipient of the Distinguished Service Award. It is very well-deserved. We'll be setting a date soon to honor Shep and to kick off the 2013 Federation campaign. Have a fabulous summer everyone!

YAD Tackles the Saluda River

By Dave Polen
Young Adult Division
of the Columbia Jewish Federation



Sunday May 20th proved to be a perfect day for a canoe trip for young Jewish adults of Columbia, SC. We started early in the morning to avoid the heat and proceeded to canoe slowly down the Saluda River. After we learned the basics about how to steer and paddle, we began our leisurely float down the river. During the trip, we saw families of turtles and a few snakes slithering alongside. The canoe trip was a great way for YADDies to spend some time together doing something out of the ordinary and experience nature in its natural form. A fun time was had by all!

If you are a young adult (mid 20s-early 40s), join in on our events!
Send an email to yadcola@jewishcolumbia.org to get notified about our upcoming events.
Also, become a fan of our group:
<http://www.facebook.com/yadcjf>.

Shalom Baby!



The Shalom Baby program of the Columbia Jewish Federation would like to say Mazal Tov to Erica and Todd Serbin, Dana and Hilik Shenkar, Alexa Claremont and Elliot Echlov, and Sara and Justin Schmidt on the recent births of their children.

As part of the program, parents of Jewish newborns or newly adopted Jewish children receive a Shalom Baby bag welcoming their new addition to the Columbia Jewish community. Todah rabah to Carolyn Kressler Greenberg, Debbie Greenhouse, and Cindi Stark for volunteering their time to deliver bags. Contact crc@jewishcolumbia.org to submit a name to the Shalom Baby program.



Cindi Stark delivers a Shalom Baby bag to Asher Serbin, son of Erica and Todd Serbin and brother of Jake and Annica Serbin.



PJ Library Delivers 3 Millionth Book

Three million children's books have been delivered for free to Jewish children throughout North America to date. That benchmark number was celebrated in the PJ Library MetroWest community of New Jersey in June.

In commemoration of the 3 millionth book delivered, PJ Library founder Harold Grinspoon and PJ Library director Marcie Greenfield Simons hand-delivered Noah's Swim-a-Thon to PJ reader Jordanna Goldstein, 6, her parents Cindy and Neil Goldstein, and her brother Ryan, 8.

A selection in our Egg Matza (5 to 6 years) age group, *Noah's Swim-a-Thon* is written and illustrated by Ann D. Koffsky.

PJ Library now sends 100,000 free books and music to families each month – up from just 200 a month in 2005. The program's impact is felt throughout Jewish federations, community centers, synagogues, and other organizations that partner with PJ Library.

"We are thrilled to be delivering the 3 millionth PJ Library book," Grinspoon says. "It's thanks to fabulous communities like MetroWest New Jersey who partner with us that we've come as far as we have. We look forward to delivering the 4 millionth book and 5 millionth book and beyond – and knowing that all across North America, parents and children are snuggling around PJ Library books and having special conversations in which parents are transmitting our heritage to the next generation."

Visit the PJ Library blog at <http://pjlibrary.org/pj-blog> to see the very special delivery to Jordanna.

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PJ Library® provides age-appropriate books to Jewish children in Columbia each month as a gift from the Columbia Jewish Federation.

To enroll your child, go to www.pjlibrary.org.



Columbia Jewish Federation 2012 Honor Roll of Donors (Addendum from 4/10/12)

Thank you for your support and helping us build a giving community! Thoughtful gifts of all sizes make a tremendous difference in our ability to care for our fellow Jews - from our children to our seniors.

FAMILY
Drs. Barry & Jennifer Feldman

It is still not too late to pledge to our 2012 Campaign.
Please contact the Columbia Jewish Federation Office
(803) 787-2023 or cjfoffice@jewishcolumbia.org.

Trees for Israel

Beautiful Certificates

for all occasions, through Hadassah:

Personalized, colorful certificates are sent to your honoree to signify trees planted in Israel which support vital causes, both in Israel and at home - \$10.50 each

Certificates in "In Honor Of,"

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or "In the Holy Land"



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THANK YOU FROM THE COLUMBIA JEWISH FEDERATION TO THOSE WHO HAVE DONATED!

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Greta Richman
Lois Rauch Gibson in memory of Marc Sunshine
Skyler Harvey
Tree of Life Sisterhood
Helen Silver
Ronald & Judith Odenheimer
Erica Serbin in honor of Ben Wagner's Bar Mitzvah

Hillel

Yale & Dorothy Doberne

Shalom Baby

Shelley and Rob Kriegshaber in honor of Erica Serbin
Cheri Alexander in honor of Erica Serbin
Cheryl Nail in honor of Erica Serbin
David & Heidi Lovit in honor of Erica Serbin
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It's not too late to give to our 2012
Campaign or send a General Donation!
Contact the Columbia Jewish Federation Office
(803) 787-2023 or cjfoffice@jewishcolumbia.org



temple israel
Judaism for the 21st century

Temple Israel, Charlotte, NC seeks Religious School Director

Temple Israel Religious School (TIRS), seeks an experienced, enthusiastic and creative educator to lead the school towards an innovative and dynamic future. The candidate must have:

- A quality academic foundation
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The candidate should be financially knowledgeable and fiscally responsible. Our ideal candidate will be able to inspire children, teachers and parents to embrace Jewish learning and infuse the school with a sense of ruach, warmth and spirituality.

Temple Israel is a Conservative, egalitarian congregation with 650 members in Charlotte, NC. Visit www.templeisraelnc.org for more information. Recently ranked as the 18th largest city in the US, Charlotte is a thriving and growing metropolitan area of 1.6 million people, and is the home of major banks, many educational, cultural and sporting opportunities.

Educational Requirements/Credentials:

- B.A. Education or equivalent (Masters preferred)
- Strong Judaic background
- 5+ years Teaching/Administrative (strongly preferred) experience
- Thorough knowledge and working skill set of Microsoft Office Suite software and basic graphic design.

Please email resume to:
Anne Weiss, Executive Director
anneweiss@templeisraelnc.org
Temple Israel 4901 Providence Rd., Charlotte, NC 28226



By Laney Cohen,
Director

Writing this, I am reminded that this is an article for the July/August issue, which is at the Year of 5772's end. What a year it's been! Jewish Family Service has continued throughout the year to be a place where people have come for help - help for food, help for financial assistance, help for peace. In the past year, JFS has become a Benefit Bank Site; hosted a new senior entertainment series called "Tea & Tunes"; been a regular site for monthly care-giver support sessions; had a successful food drive; assisted college students obtain no-interest loans for school; started an active transportation network; and most recently, through funds awarded through the SC Respite Coalition, assisted community members in getting the respite care that families need.

When families have a caregiver in the home, whether it be a family member or through a service, there can be strain that is placed upon loved ones. Often, families do not have the money to bring in someone from a caregiving service to take care of the family member in need. Often also, families do not feel like spending the extra money to keep the caregiver in the home so that families can get the much-needed respite that they must have for themselves. SC Respite and Jewish Family Service is offering the ability for members of the Jewish Community to attend Parent-Care programs at the JCC, as well as Shabbat services, at no-charge. The next two Parent-Care programs are July 15th (Alzheimer's and Dementia education) and August 19th (Advanced Directives Made Easy). Through a grant, JFS is able to help community members get the rest that they need and allow them to learn, worship, and find the serenity and support that families often feel that they miss out on due to having someone in the home who needs extra attention. Please call Laney at 787-2023 ext. 220 for more information.

JFS wants to thank Andy Volin for his 50th birthday gift to JFS. Andy, in lieu of gifts for his birthday, gave JFS a great gift. He asked all friends and family to donate non-perishables and/or money to the JFS Food Pantry. This was Andy's birthday present:



Thank you Andy for your generous gift to JFS!

Jewish Family Service would like to remind the community that we gladly accept tax-deductible monetary donations for the agency. Please consider us as the beneficiary for your Birthday, Bar or Bat Mitzvah, or celebration. Donations can be marked for a specific fund, including the Tzedakah Fund, Food Pantry, Senior Transportation, or Jewish Programming.

TUESDAYS WITH FRIENDS

Senior Program

Everyone Welcome

Come enjoy the Fun, Food & Friendship

Tuesday July 10, 2012

11:30-1:00

**Beth Shalom Synagogue
5827 North Trenholm Rd**

Fun Fitness with Kaytina & Birthdays Celebration!

All for only \$4 bucks.

Call 782-2500 to RSVP by Friday, July 6

August 7

Featuring the magic of Aaron Small

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

Tuesdays with Friends Respite Project

**Are you caring for an aging parent, grandparent, or sibling?
If so, our new Respite Project would like to help.**

We want your loved one to enjoy an outing at the monthly Tuesdays with Friends program. We have hired a certified CNA to be on duty, free of charge to you. Just drop off your loved one at the synagogue. Once there, your loved one will enjoy a delicious lunch and be entertained. Our CNA will take good care of them and attend to all their personal needs. So go and relax while your loved one enjoys our social. It's a win-win situation. Just call the synagogue to RSVP one week in advance of the program date.

Funds for the Respite Project provided by a grant from the SC Respite Coalition in conjunction with the Lt. Governor's Office on Aging.

Introduce someone you care about to someone you trust; we are an AARP featured employer

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Ask a Rabbi

Rabbi Hesh Epstein

Q Is belief in G-d necessary to be Jewish?

The simple answer is no. To be Jewish all you need is a Jewish mother or a formal conversion. Actions, beliefs, affiliations, or a preference for mustard and rye over mayo and white with your pastrami have absolutely no bearing at all on your status as a Jew.

The real question is, "Can you believe there is no G-d?" Everyone has a god. There is not a sane person on earth who doesn't believe in one. The question is only which one...

Your "god" is the thing that you believe to be infallible: you trust in its power despite any evidence to the contrary; you believe it will always be there, cannot be defeated, is all-powerful and omnipresent. It's the thing you can fall back on no matter what. The bedrock of your life - whatever that may be - that is your god.

If you think science has all the answers, and that something is only true if it is scientifically proven, then science is your god. And belief in science can be as irrational as any religious conviction. Its adherents blindly accept the most outlandish theory, as long as it was presented by an expert in the field.

Another famous god is love. Believers in love make lofty statements about its divine qualities: "Love conquers all," "Love is forever," "All you need is love," "Love is the only thing worth dying for." Even though experience has shown that love is not all you need, and it certainly doesn't conquer all, their faith is not shaken.

Others worship money. "Everything has a price," is their creed. And no matter how many miserable millionaires they meet, their god remains infallible, and they continue to have faith in money as the source of all goodness and happiness.

A very popular modern god is self. "Believe in yourself. You are capable of anything. If you put your mind to it, there's nothing you can't do." Nothing you can't do? Sounds pretty divine. A pity it's not true. We have limitations. There are things that are simply beyond our capability. But to the believer, no evidence will move his faith in himself.

It is such a relief to just let G-d be G-d. If G-d is G-d, I can be human. I am not G-d. Nothing about me is infallible - not my feelings, not my intelligence, and certainly not my bank balance. I don't have to be perfect. G-d does a good job of that.

Science, love, money, and self are all very important. But they are also fickle, ever-changing, and unpredictable. The G-d of Israel hasn't changed. If anyone or anything should be god, it's G-d.

Have a question?

Ask a rabbi!

The rabbis of the Columbia Jewish Community write columns in response to questions submitted by the readers. We encourage you - whether you are a member of the Jewish community or not - to submit your queries on theology, morality, ethics, religious observances, etc. for response by one of our rabbis.

If you have an issue you would like to see addressed, please email it to crc@jewishcolumbia.org, and put "Ask a Rabbi" in the subject line of your email. (It may take quite a while until your question is answered; there is also no guarantee that your question will be selected for publication.) You will not be identified as the writer of the question to either rabbis or readers. Please note that you cannot specify which rabbi should answer.

Community Voices

June 13, 2012

Dear Columbia Jewish Community,

We had a wonderful visit yesterday with the Almor family. It was such a pleasure to meet Amit and Vered, Gal and Itai. The quilt that was made by the Columbia Jewish Community [during Mitzvah Day 2012] is beautiful and will be proudly hung in our school.

To Amit and Vered, we really enjoyed being able to share our school and community with you. Thank you for taking the time on your trip to visit us.

We look forward to continue building this partnership with your community, connecting the Jewish Day School and Hagar, and we hope to host many more members on their next trip to Israel.

Thank you for believing that peace is possible and for supporting Hagar.

All the best,
Lauren Joseph
Hagar School



The Almor family presented Hagit Damri, the executive director of Hagar, and Smadar Peretz, Hagar's principal, with the quilt made by the Columbia Jewish Community during Mitzvah Day 2012.



Dear Columbia Jewish Community,

After going on Birthright and having such an amazing time touring the State of Israel, I just wanted to say "thank you" to our Jewish community and the Columbia Jewish Federation for helping to make this trip possible for me and the many other Jewish students that I met along the way. We went from praying in Jerusalem, the Old City and the new, to a night out on the town in Tel Aviv, to a gorgeous desert hike in the Negev, and finished off climbing Masada and swimming in the Dead Sea. I was able to meet new people and share this wonderful experience with them all; and whether they are near or far, I know I have made lifelong friends. I cannot wait until I can go back to Israel, and I would recommend any one of the Taglit Birthright trips to all.

- Rebekah Lovit

Milestones

Mazal Tov to...

- * Ben Wagner, son of Steve and Jenny Wagner, on his Bar Mitzvah
- * Spencer Amado, son of Bener and Joan Amado, on his Bar Mitzvah
- * Ward Jolles, son of Alan and Shannon Jolles, on his Bar Mitzvah
- * Chaya Epstein, daughter of Rabbi Hesh and Chavi Epstein, on her marriage to Mendy Moscowitz.

Community Voices

Our Poland Trip

Henry and Minda Miller and Karl and Margo Goldberg

On May 16th, we began an amazing journey to Poland in search of our families' history before and during the Holocaust. Henry and Karl's mothers, Cela Miller and Bluma Goldberg, were sisters who survived the Holocaust together. Their fathers, David Miller and Felix Goldberg, befriended one another in Auschwitz. The two sisters and two friends met in a displaced persons camp after the war and were married in a double wedding ceremony before immigrating to the United States. Thus, Henry and Karl share a common story. With the aide of a private guide, we were able to visit the birthplaces, slave labor camps, and concentration camps in Poland of all four parents. This quest gave us a deeper knowledge of our roots and the magnitude of personal loss that befell our families during World War II, as well as some insight on how they were able to survive.

Our first stop was Warsaw, where David Miller lived. We located the street and address where his family resided before he and his family were sent to the Warsaw Ghetto. Our guide then took us through the area what was then the Warsaw Ghetto. Today, not much remains of the original Ghetto. Only two very small sections of the ghetto wall remain. Our guide gave us an in-depth perspective on daily life in the Ghetto. With 400,000 Jews crammed into the Ghetto, living conditions were unbearable. We visited the Jewish cemetery with about 250,000 graves that gives testimony to the once-thriving Jewish population of Warsaw. In fact, one-third of the population in Warsaw before the war was Jewish. It was here in this cemetery that Henry's great-grandparents and other ancestors are buried. Unfortunately, the cemetery was damaged and neglected for many years, and records were destroyed during the war, so we were unable to locate the exact gravesites of family members; however, it was comforting being there to pay our respects.

We saw other sites in the Ghetto, as well, such as the Nozykow Synagogue, which still operates as an Orthodox synagogue, and the memorial where the Mila 18 building (resistance headquarters) once stood. Mass deportations from the Ghetto occurred late July through late September, 1942. The Ghetto was almost totally liquidated. They were taken straight to Treblinka to be exterminated. David's parents and sisters were among those who perished in Treblinka. Because David worked as a slave laborer for the railroad during this time, he was not deported. He remained in the Ghetto until after the uprising. In 1943, he was captured and sent to Majdanek and then to Auschwitz.

Treblinka was our next destination. Treblinka was a death camp, not a concentration camp. People were sent here to be exterminated. Although this camp was only in operation for about a year, over 90% of Polish Jews (around 900,000) were exterminated here and at the nearby camps of Sobibor and Chelmo, mostly through the gas chambers in late summer of 1942. In fact, Felix's family died at Chelmo. They died in the gas trucks. The Nazis, once they knew they had to retreat, totally dismantled Treblinka in order to hide the evidence of the evil that took place. If not for the testimony of a very few survivors, they would have succeeded in their cover-up. All that remains today are the grounds symbolizing a holy memorial, containing the ashes of those who perished. Our guide informed us that a hill there was formed of human ash. Large stones, representing the towns from which victims lived, dot the area in a gruesome testimony of the lost lives. We visited the stones relative to our family, lit a yarzeit candle, and said prayers for our murdered family. Not only did David's family perish in Treblinka, but also Cela and Bluma's mother and sisters.

Our next trip took us to Kalisz, where Felix lived, but on the way to Kalisz, we detoured to the tiny town of Tulishkov, where many of Felix's family lived prior to the war. Here, with the help of our guide, we actually found three different residents who knew Felix's relatives and were actually able to show us the house they lived in and the store they ran on the square. In addition, we found official documentation in the local archives of testimonials of several witnesses to the murder of several relatives by the Nazis.

In Kalisz we were surprised to find that Felix's apartment building still exists, complete with the outhouse building in the back! We were able to go into the building and climb the steps to the landing of his apartment, but the resident there did not invite us in. We stopped by the Kalisz cemetery, which was almost totally destroyed by the Nazis; however, a nice museum has been created there in the chapel building to honor the Jews of Kalisz. Another highlight was seeing the soccer/cycling complex that Felix loved as a young boy. However, the supreme highlight of Kalisz was securing Felix and his siblings' original birth certificates from the Kalisz archives! We discovered that Felix REALLY did know his birth date (we always had a little doubt).

Onward we drove until we stopped in Krakow. We did not have opportunity to see a lot here, but we did visit the Jewish Ghetto and the old Jewish square, as well as Schindler's factory, located just outside of Krakow. Krakow has a small Jewish population (around 200) today and even has a small Jewish Community Center.

From Krakow we departed for a day trip to Auschwitz. David and Felix met in Auschwitz-Birkenau in 1943 where they were both tattooed and sentenced to heavy labor. Auschwitz was a concentration camp as well as a death camp. It is very surreal to visit. The sun is shining, the grass is green, and the birds are singing. It is difficult to grasp the horrors that occurred in this place. However, by the tour's end, you do feel it. We began our tour in Auschwitz I, which originally was built as a Polish army base. Here we saw a gas chamber and crematorium, the only one left standing after the war.

We then went to Auschwitz II-Birkenau. We climbed the steps of the guardhouse, and at the top we came upon a group of Chabad boys reciting the Kaddish. This was an emotional moment for us all.

Looking out of the guardhouse, you see the train tracks and a cattle car. One can just imagine the horror of the selection process and the immediate death in the gas chambers. David and Felix, being relatively strong, were assigned to slave labor at the coal mine in Jaworzno. This saved their lives. After a few weeks in Birkenau, they were moved to a sub camp adjacent to the mine. Our guide took us to Jaworzno where the coalmine still exists; however, it is no longer a working coalmine. The security there allowed us onto the premises and gave us a tour. We saw the elevator shaft that Felix worked, carrying dead bodies up from the mine, and we saw the outside area where David worked on surface mining. Much of the original equipment and coal cars remain on the property. David and Felix toiled at the mine until January 17, 1945, when the death marches began. They survived the longest death march together (250 kilometers) and were finally liberated from Buchenward on April 11, 1945. After visiting Auschwitz, we went back to Krakow and had a celebratory toast in honor of our parents' survival. We wanted to celebrate the Nazis failure, for if they had not failed in their attempt to rid the world of Jews, we would not be here telling this story!

Lastly, we traveled to Pinczow. This is where Cela and Bluma lived. They resided on the town square, where their father owned a leather shop. Although the original building was burned by the Nazis, we were able to see the block where they lived. Before the war, Pinczow's population was 60% Jewish. No Jews reside in Pinczow today. We visited the Stara Synagogue, which is in a state of partial restoration. The cemetery was totally destroyed; the headstones were used to build streets and to shore up the banks of the river. Some of the headstones have been recovered, and a beautiful wall has been built around the Synagogue grounds, making use of these headstones. In Pinczow, we also visited the local archives. We were able to find Bluma's birth certificate and one of her sister's, but unfortunately were unable to locate Cela's and the rest of the siblings'.

The two sisters spent much of the war years as slave laborers. We visited one such place in the nearby town of Kielce. Here they worked in an ammunition factory. This factory still exists today, owned by the Polish government, and still makes ammunition. We wanted to tour the grounds, but were not allowed since it is a military installation, so we merely drove around the outskirts, looking in.

By this time, we had not only a better realization of the horrific loss of human life and suffering of the Jews in Poland, but also learned of the rich history of Polish Jewry that thrived for hundreds of years before the war. The Chassidic movement began and flourished there. Jews played a major role in Polish communities for generations. Our journey, although bittersweet, brought us a greater understanding of what our families' lives were like before the war and during the Holocaust. We were able to connect with their past and pay homage to family lost. What remarkable strength and courage David, Cela, Felix, and Bluma had during those darkest of days. They witnessed so much evil and experienced so much loss, yet they had the strength and will to live long and meaningful lives. We will forever honor them and carry on their legacy to fight hatred and intolerance.



Clockwise from top left: Krakow, Poland; the original section of Warsaw Ghetto wall; Stara Synagogue in Pinczow

Community News

Israel Bonds Reception

The annual Israel Bonds reception was held May 17 in honor of David Zalesne, who was presented with the Star of David Award. Bonds national board member John Baker also recognized Esther Greenberg and Gail Lieb for the success of the inaugural Columbia Women's Division event. Appreciation was expressed to the State of South Carolina for its recent \$10 million Israel bond investment. Guest speaker at the reception was Professor Stephen Berk of Union College. Over 130 people attended, and the evening resulted in nearly \$800,000 in Israel bond purchases.



Pictured (l-r): Columbia Israel Bonds Chairman Larry Needle, honoree David Zalesne, and Bonds national board member John Baker.



David and Dr. Anny Zalesne and their three sons, Michael, Alex, and Aaron

Tea & Tunes

JFS wants to express appreciation to its fantastic volunteers who helped make our 2nd Tea & Tunes a great success! Shout out to the wonderful bakers from Beth Shalom Synagogue for all of the delicious treats! Thank you to the Merry Hearts for the wonderful entertainment!



TOL Confirmation Class of 5772

Mazal Tov to Tree of Life Congregation's Confirmation Class of 5772!

Pictured L to R from top: Robert Bowen, Daniel Bannister, David Blue, Simi Rodgers, Agnes Barroll, Hannah Amado, Bethany Smith, Rabbi Daniel Sherman, Elena Carr, Hannah Greenhouse, Sarah Brotman, Brianna Rafferty, and Religious School Director Risa Strauss





USC Hillel Birthright

See page 14 for details.



SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, October 20, 2012
FREE Community Havdalah Concert
featuring Rick Recht
the top-touring musician in Jewish music



6:00 PM

FREE pizza dinner

sponsored by

CiCi's Pizza at Sandhill Station

6:30 PM

FREE concert

sponsored by

Columbia Jewish Federation

Katie & Irwin Kahn Jewish Community Center

Jewish Family Service



In the News

AARON STARK IS ONE OF TWO RICHLAND TWO STUDENTS SELECTED AS PEOPLE TO PEOPLE AMBASSADORS

Two rising sixth graders said good-bye to their family and friends as they embarked on a 19-day journey to England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. The journey for People to People Ambassadors, Aaron Stark and Tyrell Freeman, ran from June 8 - 26.

"I'm excited about expanding my horizons and meeting new people from Great Britain," said Stark. He is a former Center for Inquiry student and will be attending The Learning Collaborative (TLC) Magnet Program, also at Dent Middle School. He is the son of Cindi and Randy Stark and grandson of Suzi and Sherwood Stark.



People to People Ambassador Programs offer education travel opportunities to students across the United States and around the world.

Please help us make this a COMMUNITY newspaper.

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**Submit articles no longer than 500 words to
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For a complete and up-to-date listing
of community events, visit our calendar:
www.jewishcolumbia.org/calendar

Gesher גֶּשֶׁר
Jewish Outreach

Lutheran Hospice's Gesher Program

helps Jewish patients reaffirm life, enjoy the life they are given, and accept the reality of death while maintaining hope to live each day fully. Our healthcare professionals are specially trained and sensitive to Jewish traditions and values. Working in partnership with the patient, caregivers, physician, Rabbi, and synagogue, our team ensures coordinated and collaborative care that embraces each unique patient.



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WILDACRES, AUG 13-16:

SPECTACULAR MOUNTAIN SETTING, KOSHER FOOD, SPEAKERS, LIVE MUSIC
by Maxine Ershler Carr

Wildacres Retreat, with its spectacular Blue Ridge Mountain views, is a B'nai B'rith Institute of Judaism now in its 65th continuous year, held annually in Little Switzerland, NC at Wildacres Conference Center. One inclusive cost covers kosher meals, three speakers, live music, patio discussions, and two bedded rooms with private baths.

The speakers are Analia Bortz, who in addition to being a rabbi is also a medical doctor and a bioethicist; Maggie Anton, author of the "Rashi's Daughters" trilogy; and Dr. Lisa Pollard, an expert on Egypt. Rabbi Bortz's topics include *Israel: Shaping a New Society*; *Robotization of the New Generation*; *Dysfunctional Characters in the Bible*; and *Women in our Tradition: From Torah to Kitchen to Career*. Among Maggie Anton's topics are *The Importance of Rashi in Jewish History*; *The Truth About Jews in the Middle Ages*; and *All of Rashi's Daughters*. Lisa Pollard, from the History Department of UNC Wilmington, has topics that include *Arab Spring*; *Contributions of Jews to Modern Egypt*; and *Facebook in the Middle East: Perspective on Social Networks*.

Three local bluegrass groups will provide live music in the evenings. Nature trails, a library, horseshoes, ping-pong, free tennis lessons, cards, and mahjong provide daytime relaxation. But some say the best part of Wildacres is schmoozing with friends on a porch rocking chair overlooking the mountains.

The all-inclusive cost is \$350 per person for two in a room and \$490 for a single. Needs-based scholarships are available to seniors living in NC or SC.

For registration forms or more information go to www.wildacres.org, or contact Bill Carr at bcarr@ipass.net or (919) 781-4207.

NEW FILM FESTIVAL CO-CHAIRS NAMED AS FESTIVAL REACHES BAR MITZVAH AGE

Andrew Zalkin, Chairman of the Jewish Cultural Arts Committee, announced that Heidi and David Lovit have been named as Co-Chairs of the 2013 Columbia Jewish Film Festival.

Heidi and David Lovit are avid, knowledgeable film buffs, having attended and sponsored the festival since its inception. "David and I always look forward to seeing the diversity of Jewish movies that are available," says Heidi Lovit. "We love going to the Nickelodeon all year long, but the annual Jewish Film Festival is a highlight for us."



Of their mission, Heidi says, "We hope to encourage all moviegoers - adults and families - to take advantage of this wonderful cultural event. See you at the movies!"

PROCTOR & GAMBLE AND TEVA WIN DEAL OF THE YEAR; ALPHA OMEGA WINS ISRAELI COMPANY OF THE YEAR AT 11TH ANNUAL EAGLE STAR AWARDS GALA

Proctor & Gamble / Teva won the Deal of the Year award, while Alpha Omega took home the Israeli Company of the Year award on June 12th at the American-Israel Chamber of Commerce, Southeast Region's (AICC) 11th annual Eagle Star Awards Gala.

The Eagle Star Gala is the American-Israel Chamber of Commerce's community flagship event, honoring the people and companies who have contributed most to the Southeast-Israel business relationship. In addition to awarding the Israeli Company of the Year and Deal of the Year, the Chamber also recognized Asheville, North Carolina attorney Robert Deutsch with the Chamber Founders Award and the Israel Economic Mission to the US South with the Community Partner Award.

Jonathan Medved, one of Israel's most celebrated entrepreneurs and high tech venture capitalists who was prominently featured in the bestselling *Start Up Nation*, was the keynote speaker. The New York Times named him one of the top 10 most influential Americans who have impacted Israel. He praised AICC as a key connector in the US for these Israeli companies.

The event website, <http://2012.eaglestargala.com> features all the event details.

Beth Shalom

On May 28, 2012 Beth Shalom Synagogue celebrated members of fifty years and longer! *A Walk Down Memory Lane* was an unforgettable afternoon. With 115 people in attendance, we feted people whose history in Columbia and at Beth Shalom goes back at least half a century. Stories were told, tears shed, and love was overflowing for this remarkable milestone. Some told of their arrival or birth here in South Carolina. Others detailed vital memories of their weddings or births. Many recalled the wonderful halcyon days under Rabbi David Karesh, OBM. Chaired by Howard Stravitz and Terri Hodges, the social hall was bedecked with flowers and decorations and was overflowing with food. Host Bruce Filler regaled everyone with his wit as all were toasted.

It's official! Alon Segal will once again be leading our Religious School with his unparalleled joy of learning. Get ready for the first day of open school when BSS kids will start with a bang! August 19 at 11 AM is when we start off the year at The Plex. What's next? Trips, experiments, quests, and fun learning are waiting for you!

Shabbat services continue through the summer. With Friday evening services at 6 PM and Shabbat morning at 9:45, we always end with a delicious Kiddush courtesy of Beth Shalom and Chef Larisa.

Topping it all off are Talmud classes each Shabbat (Saturday) after services, taught by Rabbi Jonathan Case.

The next Musical Shabbat will be on August 3 at 6:30 sharp (get early to get a good seat!). This outstanding celebration of G-d and Shabbat has the walls reverberating with laughter, song, and gifted musicians, along with our Meshorrim, under the direction of Hazzan Michal.

Daily Mincha services are Monday through Thursday at 6 PM.

Hungry to do a Mitzvah? Come to Harvest Hope Food Bank on Shop Road on June 28th at 5 PM. For two hours you can do real good tzedaka work and feel good about helping fill empty bellies.

Want more? How about Tuesdays with Friends? Directed by Minda Miller, this monthly program will next meet on July 10. For a lunch of friends, family, learning, and entertainment, Tuesdays with Friends caters to seniors. It is \$4 and a guaranteed wonderful afternoon for all. Who can come? Anyone. P.S. You can volunteer to help too!

-Rabbi Jonathan Case

BETH SHALOM RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Our Religious School has many programs to offer. Below is a description of our early childhood programming. Please contact Alon Segal, Religious School Director, with any questions about these programs or any other programs & classes that we offer in our school.

Please look for the Religious School registration form in the August bulletin. Save the date for our Back to School Blast on August 19th at The Plex with more details to come!

Shabbat Playtime

Shabbat Playtime is a monthly program for children in first grade and under. This fun, interactive program is held from 11:30-12:30 in our chapel during Saturday morning Shabbat services and has rotating Jewish holiday or family themes. Children learn songs, dance with the Torah, and are treated to a unique live puppet show.

Torah Tot Program

Our Torah Tot students meet once a month from 9:30 to 11:15 Sunday mornings with a dedicated teacher, and continue until 12:30 with their parents/caregivers and our assistant teachers for structured "free play" time where they may continue with inside activities or have fun on our playground. Students engage in many fun and educational activities, with a focus on Jewish Holidays and family rituals. Children play games, sing songs, read stories, make crafts, and begin learning blessings.

This program is offered to children ages 18-36 months. Children enrolled in the Torah Tot program must be accompanied by an adult during the entire class time.

Pre-School Program

Our Pre-school students meet twice monthly from 9:30 to 12:30 on Sunday mornings. Children learn about Jewish heritage and culture through play, stories, crafts, rituals, and food. Blessings are learned in Hebrew.

Children should be at least 3 years old, fully potty trained, and able to stay without a parent or caregiver for the entire class time. A snack is provided.

THE MITZVAH OF MIKVEH

The Hannah Schwalbe Community Mikveh is now offering educational programming about how and when to observe the Mitzvah of Mikveh. Emmanuel Ravad, a prominent and perhaps foremost author of Mikveh education and outreach, writes, "There are 612 other Mitzvot; why a special campaign for the Mitzvah of Mikveh? The answer is that only one Mitzvah is described as 'Mikveh Yisrael Mo'shi'o' - The Hope of Yisrael and its salvation.' Mikveh inspires belief in God, the observance of all the mitzvot, and it has an impact on the life of our children; therefore it has priority over other mitzvot."

There are experienced female and male members who are willing to bring presentations to groups that are interested in learning about the Mitzvah of Mikveh. To that end, we are planning to bring a brief, but informative, presentation to the Tree of Life Sisterhood this fall and are making community outreach one of our main priorities for the future. Recently, we sent representation to the joyous celebration of Israeli independence at the JCC in April, where we answered questions and provided information about our community Mikveh. If you would like more information regarding our outreach efforts, please contact Jessica Kline, who serves as our committee Treasurer, at jkline@stei.com or Skyler Harvey, who serves as our committee secretary, at MyYeshiva@aol.com.

In addition to our outreach efforts, we are currently making a special offer to our Jewish community to make an appointment to come to the Mikveh for a free guided visit for those who have yet to be initiated into the physical and spiritual wonders of the Mikveh. There are committee members who are willing to assist you in your Mikveh experience, as it is important that someone accompany you during your visit. We hope that people will take advantage of this exciting opportunity, and we look forward to your taking part in the Mitzvah of Mikveh!

As always, if you are interested in becoming a member of the Mikveh, would like more information, or would care to volunteer on our committee, please contact Marc Berger at mikvahcolumbia@gmail.com. An annual membership ranges from \$250.00 to \$500.00. A membership includes unlimited visits for the entire year, and helps to sustain our efforts at maintenance and repair.



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Tree of Life

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS by Risa Strauss

Last month, Rabbi Sherman and I had the opportunity to celebrate Teacher Appreciation Shabbat with all of our teachers, parents, members of our congregation, our graduating high school seniors, and our youngest of Hebrew students in *Kitah Alef*. What a truly special feeling it was to be on the *bimah* that night!

Jewish tradition teaches us about the notion of *derech eretz*, commonly thought of as “the way of the world, or the land.” *Derech eretz* is the code of proper behavior that binds us to each other as human beings and as Jews. According to *Midrash*, *derech eretz* even “precedes” the Torah. We can understand this to mean that, even before we begin to do important things like study Torah and develop an understanding of Judaism and *mitzvot*, we must abide by a code of *derech eretz* - doing what is “right.”

Luckily, one of the most wonderful byproducts of a Temple Religious School is the special relationships beyond our common denominator of Judaism that connect us all to each other - whether we come from Blythewood or Orangeburg or Sumter or Chapin. These relationships - *teacher-student*, *parent-teacher*, *teacher-teacher*, and *student-student* - percolate and thrive every time we step through the doors of our Temple. And these friendships that we build help to disseminate that concept of *derech eretz* throughout our congregation.

This is accomplished by our teachers because they set a personal example - a *dugma ishit* - for our students by sharing so generously their love of Judaism, their energy, enthusiasm, and TIME. TOL Religious School staff is an eclectic and devoted group of educators that vary in age and background. What we share with our students at Religious School is a treasure chest of precious traditions and teachings inherited from generations before us, beginning with Sarah and Abraham and continuing with our own families. Hebrew/*lvrit* is the eternal language of Judaism. We weave Hebrew throughout our curriculum at Temple to transmit to our children positive and valuable ideas about Jewish identity, God and prayer, community and personal values, and just everyday life.

Most people would agree that children learn best by example. If that is so, and I believe it is, then our children have been the main recipients of a humungous Jewish group hug, filled with tradition, Jewish knowledge, wisdom, patience, and acceptance. We are so very proud of this very generous and creative staff of teachers and assistant student teachers, or *madrichim*, and to be working with such an “*ey-zehyofi*” (truly great) group of students.

The greatest honor that a student can bestow upon a teacher is to become a teacher him or herself. Rabbi Sherman and I have been lucky enough to have been “colleagues” with four of our graduating seniors this year. Each has been teaching here at TOL for four years and is a graduate of our assistant teacher program. They include Sarah Smith (a rising Capstone Scholar at USC), Elliott Chartock (Stanford University), Alyssa Greenhouse (Duke University), and Naomi Nudelman (College of Charleston). These young adults truly “get” the concept of “*le-dor va-dor*,” from generation to generation. From elementary education, to becoming B’nai Mitzvah and Confirmants, and now graduating seniors that teach at this synagogue, Sarah, Elliott, Alyssa, and Naomi are truly the fruit of our *Eitz Chayim*, our Tree of Life.

The famous words of Crosby, Stills, Nash, and Young, “You, who are on the road, must have a code that you can live by” echo the *derech eretz* that we hope to aspire to at TOL. We nourish our children with a really good code for life and help them understand that there is always room for change and growth and study, and that love, appreciation, and respect are very Jewish words. *Todah Rabbah* to our parents, students, and congregants for ensuring that we have the right tools to make that happen here at Temple.

Columbia Jewish Day School

The Columbia Jewish Day School is poised to start its twenty-first year with an enrollment of about 125 students. The school has expanded this year, offering two toddler classes. The current age span of students is one-year-olds through the fifth grade. The school is also taking a tremendous leap forward in the area of technology.

The school has purchased over 30 Google Chromebook computers, allowing every second through fifth grader to be issued their own computer. Rabbi Meir Muller, school principal, stated, “The school is eager to build on our students’ access to technology and is planning in the next year or so to provide each elementary student with their own device - a concept known as ‘1-to-1 computing.’” In addition to the new Chromebooks, the school also has twenty desktop computers, laptops, iPads, and a SMART Board to support the students’ learning. Muller further explained, “At CJDS we use computers to enhance our inquiry-based approach; the students work on their own research focus, produce their own data, and continue their inquiry as new questions arise from their research.”

In addition to the technology, the school has increased staffing patterns for the coming year. CJDS offers some of the lowest teacher-to-student ratios in the region in order to provide award-winning care. With the increase in students, especially younger students, the school had a need to increase staffing in the early mornings and afternoons. The aftercare program, which cares for children until 5:45 in the evening, will have the same low ratios as students receive in the morning. Kelly Stanton, assistant principal, explained that the school believes in continuity of care, “Families at CJDS have come to expect that each child will have a teacher who develops a close relationship with the child and their family. With our increase in staff hours, we will continue to provide the highest care.”

From technology to staff, CJDS is primed for another great year of care and education for each student!

Dinner, Havdalah, and 3 Movies

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 movie!

There will be 3 movies—one G, one PG, and one for adults.

There will be childcare for the movie!

Only \$5 per person, age 5 and older; no charge for under 5; plus \$5 per family for childcare (if using childcare).

When: Saturday evening, July 14, 6 pm-9 pm

Where: Tree Of Life Congregation

RSVP by July 11 to Risa at 787 2182.

Important Tree of Life Dates for July-August 2012

- Seeds of Hope Farmers Market in Temple Parking lot, 8am - 12 noon on Thursdays, July 5, 12, 19, 26, and August 2
- Friday evening Shabbat Services: July 6, 13, 27, August 3, 10, 24, and 31 at 7:30 pm
- July 20 and August 17: Kabbalat Shabbat at 6 pm, Services 6:30-7:30 pm
- Saturday Morning Service and Torah Study: July 14, 10am
- B’nai Mitzvah: Saturday morning, August 11- Leeam Stein, 10:00am
- Saturday morning, August 18- Zackary Kaplan, 10:30am
- Friday evening, August 24: New Member Ice Cream Social
- Saturday morning, August 25- Matthew Beymer and Alex Parales at Temple Sinai in Sumter, South Carolina
- Saturday morning, September 1- Rachel Weissman

Hebrew refresher available to all students.

Call Risa Strauss for more info about all Religious School programming. For Brotherhood and Sisterhood information please call the Temple office at 803 787 2182.



Todah Rabbah to everyone who donated stuffed animals to Dr. Pat Contino in Bagram, Afghanistan for his young trauma patients.

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Katie & Irwin Kahn Jewish Community Center

JCC RESTARTS SECOND CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The Katie & Irwin Kahn JCC, under the leadership of President Keith Babcock and campaign chairs David Zalesne and Fred Seidenberg, has restarted their second capital campaign in order to retire its remaining debt. As the Center plans for its second decade of operations at the Gerry Sue and Norman Arnold Jewish Community Campus, we are asking the Columbia Jewish Community to once again come together to shape and secure the future of our Community Center. Many community members have already given generously of their time and resources to build and run the Center. The board and staff of the JCC believe the final target of retiring our debt is within reach with this campaign. When called upon, please give as generously as you are able to ensure a bright future for our great Community Center and ensure the lasting legacy of the Jewish community in Columbia.

THE JCC'S DINNER AND COMEDY: A SURE BET FOR SUMMER FUN

While other people are working on their tans poolside, the staff at the Katie & Irwin Kahn Jewish Community Center is hard at work getting ready for a fun new summer fundraiser to which the entire community is invited. On Sunday, July 22nd at 6 pm, the Center will be hosting its first ever spaghetti dinner and comedy night. The evening will feature stand-up comedy, an Italian feast, and lots of fun surprises for everyone. Do you have children that can't sit still for a show? Bring them along - there will be free babysitting and activities for older children, too!

Tickets are \$18 for adults, and children 12 and under are only \$5. Your ticket includes an Italian spaghetti dinner, beverage, dessert, and the comedy show. There will be beer and wine available as well. You simply cannot beat this value for a night out - plus, you're helping raise money for a good cause. This event will sell out - so call the JCC early to get your tickets!

Don't spend the evening of July 22nd sweating while loafing around the house - join your friends at the Center for a night of food, laughter, good times, and ample air conditioning! The evening will not only leave a smile on your face, but is also a great way to cool off! Call 787-2023 for tickets.

Love spaghetti? Love to laugh?

Join us for dinner & a comedy!

a fundraiser to benefit the JCC

Sunday, July 22nd

Dinner at 6:00 pm • comedy at 7:00 pm



Spaghetti dinner will be followed by a
comedy show (appropriate for all ages).



Register online or at the front desk.
Adults: \$18 • Children: \$5 (ages 5-12)
Children under 5 are free.
Free babysitting available.

Everyone is welcome! All proceeds benefit the JCC.
Contact: Laurie Slack at 787-2023, ext. 201 or lauries@jcccolumbia.org



You belong here.

JCC • 306 Flora Drive • Columbia, SC 29223 • jcccolumbia.org/spaghetti12

COLUMBIA JEWISH BOOK FESTIVAL HAS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Book Lovers young and old alike should mark their calendars for the 2nd Annual Columbia Jewish Book Festival, to be held the evening of Saturday, October 20th until the evening of Wednesday, October 24th at the Katie and Irwin Kahn Jewish Community Center. The festival will kick off with a special Havdalah concert by Jewish rocker Rick Recht (sponsored by the JCC, CJF, and JFS) for the entire community. The festival will also feature notable Jewish authors speaking about their works and activities for the entire family. A portion of the book sales will go the Jewish Community Center to help support quality Jewish Programming. Details on speakers and events will be announced soon, so be sure to save the date.

NEED TO HONOR A SPECIAL BIRTHDAY, ANNIVERSARY, OR SAY THANK YOU?

The JCC now has an easy way to do just this, as well as support the JCC programs.

For a minimum of \$18.00 you can send us the information and we will mail out a donation for YOU. This will be a tax-deductible way to honor and remember others!

The programs that will benefit are the special JCC programs such as Jewish Programs, Jewish Cultural Arts, CIBL Basketball, the JAWS Swim Team, Camps, Health & Fitness, Aquatics, and a General Fund.

An art card (created by Lyssa Harvey) will be sent for you, and you will receive notice that it has been sent out!

Get started with all those graduations and summer birthdays! See the form below. For more information, call Debbie Mullen at 787-2023.


donation Form
Katie & Irwin Kahn Jewish Community Center

Minimum Suggested Donation: \$18.00

Donor Information Name: _____ Address: _____	Recipient Information Name: _____ Address: _____
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Please Specify Occasion: _____

Funding Options:

<input type="checkbox"/> Jewish Programs <input type="checkbox"/> Health & Fitness <input type="checkbox"/> Basketball <input type="checkbox"/> General Fund		<input type="checkbox"/> Jewish Cultural Arts <input type="checkbox"/> JCC Camps <input type="checkbox"/> JAWS Swim Team <input type="checkbox"/> Aquatics
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Thank you for your tax deductible contribution. Please send form to
Katie & Irwin Kahn JCC Attn: Debby Mullen, 306 Flora Drive Columbia, SC 29223


donation Form
Katie & Irwin Kahn Jewish Community Center

Minimum Suggested Donation: \$18.00

Donor Information Name: _____ Address: _____	Recipient Information Name: _____ Address: _____
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Please Specify Occasion: _____

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Thank you for your tax deductible contribution. Please send form to
Katie & Irwin Kahn JCC Attn: Debby Mullen, 306 Flora Drive Columbia, SC 29223

Hillel

This past May, Hillel at USC sent its first-ever group on a Birthright Israel Trip. Birthright Israel is a free, 10-day trip for Jewish young adults (ages 18-26) that aims to strengthen Jewish identity and build connections with the land and people of Israel. This month we'd like to share with you, in their own words, the experiences of some of our students who were able to go on this trip. We would also like to thank Rabbi Leah Doberne-Schor for organizing this trip and making it possible.

The students interviewed:

Zach Roth (2014), Hillel President, International Business
Rachel Miller (2014), Hillel Secretary, Elementary Education
Rachel Sanna (2014), Sport and Entertainment Management
George Helman (2013), Mathematics
Rebekah Lovit, Mathematics

How was the trip?

RACHEL M: I was surprised at how much we did in 10 days. I feel like we didn't sleep at all.

RACHEL S: It was so awesome. I wish I was still there.

What was a highlight of the trip?

RACHEL M: We went on Shabbat to the Western Wall. [First the group went during the day on Friday. But they returned] at night to celebrate Shabbat. It was kind of like a party with wall-to-wall people and singing and dancing.

REBEKAH: I really liked [the] desert hike in the Negev. We stopped halfway through, and we took five minutes, closed our eyes and looked up at sky. It was the quietest five minutes anyone has ever had. [It was] amazing, the quiet and stillness and beauty of the landscape.

RACHEL S: Having the [Israeli] soldiers with us [four soldiers traveled with the group for several days], meeting people that are our age but from a completely different perspective. Also I loved the hikes, especially the desert hike in the Negev... you could just hear your breath.

ZACH: Meeting the Israeli soldiers was fantastic. [It was] interesting to be able to learn about what they're going through. They are exactly my age. [Also,] being able to speak Hebrew, order food in Hebrew, experience Israeli culture, and translate for people.

GEORGE: Israel is a very beautiful country. My favorite part was the hiking and the natural beauty. I was expecting sand and rocks and not a whole lot to look at, but Israel has a lot to look at.

What surprised you?

RACHEL M: Driving into Tel Aviv for first time, the tour guide pointed out people. "Do you see this man? He's Jewish. This girl, she's Jewish." It's insane to be in a place where everyone is Jewish like you.

ZACH: On Shabbat, how everything was dead... we walked by Ben Yehuda Street [a major downtown area] on Friday night and there was no one. Motzei Shabbat [Saturday night after sundown] everything was opened up again.

RACHEL S: Israel isn't as crazy as the news makes it out to be. It's not dangerous or scary.

What was one of your greatest learnings/takeaways?

ZACH: Seeing how Israelis live day to day... Seeing what they go through, their resilience was amazing. Talking with the soldiers. [During one session the students talked about their fears.] I said, "Wanting a good future, family, success." The soldier said, "Just being alive."

GEORGE: [Meeting the Israeli soldiers,] I got to learn a little bit about what they are like... the fact that they were so similar. I was surprised.

How about the group itself?

ZACH: The group was amazing. The group made the trip. I was able to make new friends and make better friends from USC.

GEORGE: There were nine other USC students, and I only knew two of them. I got to meet a bunch of SC kids. [I also met] the Israeli soldiers and heard what they really thought about Americans.

REBEKAH: I was excited to go to Israel beforehand, but I was nervous meeting new people and going out of country with new people. But our group was amazing and accepting of each other. Our tour guide was amazing. It was easy to bond so quickly... we were like one big family.

RACHEL S: It was cool to see other people I didn't know and to make friends. The USC kids were by far the coolest.

What would you say to someone who was thinking about going?

REBEKAH: To do it. If you're nervous, don't be. You have to do it; you have this opportunity - go for it.

RACHEL M: It was awesome. I'm really glad [Rabbi Leah] got the information to get us there.

BBYO

JEWISH YOUTH GROUPS: THE TIME IS NOW

I started writing this article at 2:00 am in the foyer of the JCC while helping to chaperone a BBYO lock-in. Sixty Jewish youth from across the region came together to celebrate their Judaism and be together for the weekend. While the dance had ended, the teens' energy level had not dropped. I was surrounded by the future of American Judaism.

But we are losing our youth at an astonishing pace. The drop-out rate from religious school after Bar/Bat Mitzvah is very high. Fewer teens are confirmed. Involvement in Hillel on college campuses is low. The number of young adults who self-identify as Jewish is declining. Look around on Friday night; we are losing our youth, our future, from Temple.

So what can we do as American Jewry slowly slides into oblivion? A recent study reports that involvement in a Jewish youth group had a very positive impact on a teen's life. Youth group alumni are more likely to affirm the importance of Judaism and Israel in their lives. These youth are more connected to their Jewish community, providing our future leadership. This "stickiness" lasts into adulthood. Ask those adults who now sit on our various boards if they were involved in BBYO, NFTY, or USY. Jewish youth group alumni have more Jewish friends, marry other Jews, and raise their children Jewish.

Columbia is home to two youth groups - BBYO and NFTY. Both groups have programs for 6th to 12th graders. BBYO accepts Jewish youth from across religious movements and regardless of Temple affiliation. Our local NFTY chapter is based at Tree of Life. Teens provide the leadership with adult advisors. Columbia teens have held leadership positions locally, regionally, and nationally. Many colleges are aware of these organizations and look for them on applications.

It is not enough to suggest that our teens be involved in a Jewish youth group. If we want our youth to be involved in the Jewish community and stay connected throughout their lives, we have to show our teens this is important. Although our teens may not admit it, they look to us for guidance and direction. Our actions speak louder than words. Ask about the next meeting or event. Encourage participation. Promote leadership positions. Be willing to drive or chaperone.

So now is the time to get involved. Maybe your own child, nephew, or granddaughter. Maybe you have unaffiliated Jewish friends with children. There is no mailing list available of age-appropriate teens. If you know a Jewish teen have them check out the youth groups in town. This is their chance to make a difference.

David Greenhouse, Chair, Columbia BBYO



JServe Garden Project



Members of the Paul Schwartz chapter, AZA and Lena Karesh chapter, BBG went to Finley Park for a picnic Sunday, June 10. Attendance was low due to the impending rain but Grant Kilgore, AZA advisor Jerry Emanuel, Sarah Brotman, Sarah Shtessel, Hannah Greenhouse, and Bethany Smith braved

the elements, along with David Greenhouse. With the extra food left over the chapter members fed about 20 homeless people with chicken, cole slaw, potato salad, dessert and drinks. A day's outing at the park turned into a mitzvah.



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