

Jewish Academy shares Tu Bshvat fun area Jewish preschools

By Dassy Cotlar

The students of the Jewish Academy celebrated Tu B'Shvat, the Jewish New Year for trees, in a creative and fun filled way with the local Jewish Preschools. The older students worked together with the preschoolers in creating edible fruit skewers, shaped like trees. They then placed the filled skewers into flower pots to take home.

Grades 2-5 went to the Beth Or preschool to have fun with the Dolphin and Tiger 4 year-old classes, while K-1 class helped the Torah Tyke class at Hillel preschool. In addition to this visit, both preschools are treated with periodic visits from JAWC students who come to read stories to the youngsters.

Both elementary students and preschoolers raved about the joint project. Nechama, a JAWC student who

visited the Tiger class says, "I got to interact with students from all different parts of the Jewish community and the preschoolers got to learn about Tu B'Shvat in a hands-on way."

Russell, a 5th grader at JAWC adds, "I met nice little kids and they saw me as a role model."

Isabel, a 2nd grader, quipped, "I enjoyed working with the children and I think the children enjoyed working with me, because I helped them when they needed it, and I let them do it themselves when they wanted to!"

The Torah Tykes always enjoy their events with the older children at JAWC. They like spending time with the older children, some of whom are graduates from their class.

Kayla says "It was fun to make trees you can eat!"

A fun time was had by all, and as



Yosef sums it up- "We stabbed fruit with these long things and got to eat them later!"



JELF application for interest-free educational loans available March 1

Applications for interest-free loans for post-secondary education (college, graduate school, vocational and professional courses) will be available to Jewish students for the 2011-2012 school year from the Jewish Educational Loan Fund. The loan application will be available March 1 – April 15 on JELF's website at www.jelf.org. JELF loans are need-based and offer "last-dollar" financing, meaning that JELF provides the final dollars that bridge the gap between a student's total financial resources and the cost of attending school. Applicants must be enrolled full time in a program leading to a degree or certificate at an accredited institution that is located in the United States, be a U.S. citizen or legal resident, and be able to demonstrate financial need (FAFSA application required). For more information, contact

info@jelf.org, call 770-396-3080, or visit www.jelf.org.



Students to benefit from gift to Jewish studies

By Karen Gajewski

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill alumnus Howard R. Levine, chairman and CEO of Family Dollar Stores Inc., has created an endowment to support undergraduate and graduate students in Jewish studies at his alma mater.

The Howard R. Levine Student Excellence Fund in Jewish Studies,

created through a \$500,000 pledge, will support academic studies and scholarly research. When fully funded, the endowment will provide the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences with a permanent source of funding to further the center's teaching mission.

"Through this gift, I hope students will have a more enriching college

experience and perhaps have the means to take advantage of learning opportunities that otherwise might not be within their financial reach," said Levine, who graduated from UNC with a business degree in 1981.

The endowment will:

- support student research inside and outside the classroom, including student travel and study abroad;
- fund academic field trips to extend the classroom experience into the community;
- enable the center to bring in visitors to meet with students and deliver unique programs; and
- allow the center to expand its course offerings to meet rising student demand.

"We are so thankful to Howard and his family for this generous and inspiring gift to the center and to Carolina's students," said Jonathan Hess, Ph.D., center director and Moses M. and Hannah L. Malkin Term Professor of Jewish History and Culture. "The level of study and the quality of the research conducted by UNC students is truly impressive. Now, thanks to the Levine family, our students can participate in

more projects and programs than ever before."

Levine, a Charlotte native and resident, said he is delighted to give back to UNC's students.

"I've been following the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies for a few years now, and I've heard nothing but positive things about the program and its growth," Levine said. "Furthermore, I like that the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies attracts students with different backgrounds and a range of interests. As a Carolina alumnus with an interest in supporting Jewish organizations and causes, I thought this was the perfect opportunity for me to support my alma mater in a way that was personal to me."

Established in 2003, the center unites the public, students and faculty from various academic disciplines who share a passion for a deeper understanding of Jewish history, culture and thought. The center offers undergraduate minors in Jewish studies and modern Hebrew. More than 1,000 students take Jewish studies courses each year, and the center also offers an outreach program and lecture series.



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