

Academy Has Gala Affair

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Three "overall" chairpersons of Gala (l. to r.): Patti Weisman, Fania Greenwood, Arlene Shapiro.



Arthur Pressman (r) being honored by M. Shapiro. Photos/Alan Goldberg

The highlight of the evening was the "reverse" drawing for the trip to Israel, ably M.C.'d by Bob Abel. George and Sarah Ackerman, the winners, were ecstatic when their names were announced. George, a long time contributor to the Academy, is strongly committed to Jewish education and is a member of the Academy board.

Another highlight of the evening was the recognition of two individuals who have given outstanding service to the Academy. Mike Shapiro, president of the Academy, thanked and presented gifts to Arthur Pressman and Dr. Saul Brenner for their many years of dedication. Arthur comes every Thursday morning to do the Torah readings at the Academy. Saul, who teaches at UNCC, has been a member of the Academy board every

year but three since 1969, the year the Academy was founded. He has served as first vice-president, chairman/co-chairman of the Education and Publicity committees, the Gala and the Raffle. Both of Saul and Martha Brenner's children have attended the Academy from kindergarten through the sixth grade.

When asked about his long service to the Academy, Saul remarked, "If there were no Academy in Charlotte, I probably would have left town. I want my boys and the other Jewish children in Charlotte to have the opportunity to learn all they can about Judaism. The Academy has given my children a very warm and satisfying Jewish education." Very special thanks go to very special people—our generous patrons. Without them there would not have been a Gala.

Charlotteans Attended JWB Biennial Convention



Saul Brenner (r) receiving award from Michael Shapiro.



Beryl Fishman dancing with a "waiter," a UNCC professor.

Martin L. Schneer, Miles S. Levine and Harold Josephson attended the 1984 Biennial Convention of JWB, which took place in Boston from April 25-29.

More than 900 Jewish communal leaders from North America, Israel and Europe — many of them presidents, members of boards of directors, and executives of JCCs, Ys, Jewish Federations and other organizations — spent the five days in grappling with issues and problems of pressing concern to the Jewish community.

These major issues included ways of maximizing the Jewish educational effectiveness of JCCs, meeting the changing needs of the Jewish family, rising to the challenge of leadership, and making the most productive use of the new technologies.

They heard Dr. David Hartman, Hebrew University professor and director of the Shalom Harman Institute of Advanced Studies in Jerusalem, who served during the entire convention as Biennial Scholar-in-Residence.

Morton L. Mandel, of Cleveland, reported the findings and potential implications of a study conducted by the Commission on Maximizing the Jewish Educational Ef-

fectiveness of JCCs. Mandel is Commission chairman; JWB Executive Vice-President Arthur Rotman is study director.

The delegates also took part in an intensive Sabbath experience beginning Friday night with a Shabbat dinner and Shabbat Cafe and including Torah study sessions, Shabbat services, a Shabbat luncheon and Study Seminar on Saturday.

Arthur Kurzweil, genealogist, discussed "Jewish Roots." James and Marcia Rudin, co-authors of *Prison or Paradise?: The New Religious Cults*, discussed the problem of Jews in cults. Dr. Daniel Hartman led a session on Torah study.

The West Point Jewish Cadet Choir sang at Sabbath services. Rabbi Barry H. Greene, chairman, JWB's Commission on Jewish Chaplaincy, delivered the sermon. Dr. David Hartman led a study seminar Saturday afternoon.

The delegates took part in plenary sessions, forums and workshops. Some of them participated in an Advanced Leaders Roundtable. Others took part in a six-hour New Leaders Seminar that featured Professors Bernard Reisman and Jonathan Woocher of Brandeis University.

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