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Foundation Makes Giant Strides

Benefactors Pledge \$1 Million Each



Herman Blumenthal

The Blumenthal Foundation and Leon Levine have each increased their pledges to the Foundation to \$1 million.

"These philanthropists have brought us in sight of our Phase I goal," said Mark Bernstein, Foundation President.

The announcement of the increased pledges was made in conjunction with a decision of the Foundation Board designating overall names for the component parts of the Phase I facilities.

The entire Phase I facility will be called the "Jewish Education and Community Center". It will house all the



Leon Levine

facilities necessary for the programs of Temple Israel, Temple Beth El, the Jewish Community Center, the Hebrew Academy, the Federation and its Social Services Department.

Physically, the Jewish Education and Community Center is divided into two halves. These will be known as the Jewish Educational Building and the Jewish Community Center Building. The Community Center Building will house such facilities as the gym, youth lounge, indoor pool, racquetball courts, health club, snack bar and dance exercise areas.

In the Jewish Educational Building will be found the varied classrooms, library, offices, auditorium and adult lounge.

The Jewish Education and Community Center is scheduled for completion in April '86. At that time, the doors will open for use by all the participating institutions, organizations and the total community.

"It is with a deep sense of gratitude and respect that we accept the pledges of \$1 million from the Blumenthal Foundation and Leon Levine," said Mark Bernstein. "They have taken the lead in showing that this community can and will fulfill the dream we share.

"The Designating of the Phase I facilities as well as the naming of the 54 acres, 'Shalom Park', marks an important step in the work of the Foundation," said Bernstein. "No longer will we have to refer to the 'project' or the 'building'.

"It is as if we have come of age. We have come to the point of being a living entity with clear identities."

Foundation Site To Be Called 'Shalom Park'

Shalom Park has been chosen by the Board of the Foundation of the Charlotte Jewish Community as the name for the 54-acre site on Providence Road.

This is the location where Phase I is now being built and where Temple Beth El and Temple Israel will build their new sanctuaries/social halls in Phase II.

"We wanted a general name that would clearly show the Jewish nature of the site without implying exclusivity," said Mark Bernstein, Foundation president. "The word 'Shalom' has become so well known as a word meaning both welcome and peace, that it was a natural choice.

"Calling it 'Shalom Park' was designed to emphasize the effort we have made to preserve the natural beauty of the land. The word 'park' brings images of people at play and at peace with themselves and with their surroundings.

"Together, we hope that the words 'Shalom Park' will come

to mean a center for education, recreation and culture for the entire community."

Phase I, the building of education and recreation facilities for the Jewish Community Center, Temple Israel, Temple Beth El, the Hebrew Academy and the Federation and its Social Services, is progressing extremely well.

"We look to be in the facilities by April '86," said William Gorelick, Foundation Building Committee chair. "We have been blessed with excellent weather ever since we began construction in December of '84. Laxton Construction, our contractors, have taken every advantage of the clear days and, with the cooperation of their excellent work crews and subcontractors, they have kept the building moving at a brisk pace."

In late June and July the columns and roof have gone up on the Education Building. The overall plan of the facility is now evident to visitors. It is possible to enter the facility and walk through the future classrooms and auditorium to the fully enclosed Community Center building. There, the gym, indoor pool, racquetball courts, health club and many other facilities are in various stages of completion.

"The vision of our architects, Dellinger and Lee, is becoming more evident each day," said Mark Bernstein. "The building, with its textured brick exterior, blends into the site like a living piece of the landscape. It adds additional credence to the image of 'Shalom Park'."

\$650,000 Still Needed To Reach Phase I Goal

Honorials And Memorials Being Established

Indoor Pool Named In Memory of Barbara Levine

A new pledge of \$150,000 has been made by Howard Levine, Mindy Levine and Laurie Levine Sklut in memory of their mother, Barbara Levine. This and the \$1 million pledged by Leon Levine and Herman Blumenthal have brought the campaign to within \$650,000 of the goal necessary to complete Phase I. Phase I includes the construction of the Jewish Education and Community Center Building with its two component halves, the Jewish Educational Building and the Jewish Community Center Building.

Social Services Office Dedicated

In additional pledges this

month, Don and Bobbie Bernstein have dedicated the Social Services office with their increased pledge totaling \$35,000.

Harry Swimmer, Capital Campaign chair, has indicated that this month will be busy with helping major donors designate various rooms and portions of the Jewish Education and Community Center Building as honorials and memorials.

"While we are turning first and in person to those who have already made pledges, said Swimmer, in the September issue of the *Charlotte Jewish News*, we will publish a full list of all the available honorials and memorials. It would not surprise me to find there are very generous individuals who will increase their pledges after

seeing the published list.

"This is a unique opportunity to have the name of a family or a loved one associated with the most exciting innovation in the history of the American Jewish community."

Others To Gain From Our Concept

In the past three months the Foundation has received calls from communities in Texas, Kansas, Nebraska and several New England states asking for consultation and help in developing similar but smaller concepts.

"For generations to come," said Swimmer, "representatives from Jewish communities around the nation and the world will be coming

to Charlotte to study and learn from the Foundation, Shalom Park, and the Jewish Education and Community Center. Those names associated with the facilities of the Jewish Educational Building and the Community Center Building will become well known and respected on a national level."

Swimmer plans to complete the campaign and to raise the \$650,000 by mid-October.

"When we have reached that figure, we will have achieved not only the financing of the facilities but the assurance of being able to maintain them in the future so that they will always be a proud reminder of our ability as a community who makes our dreams come true," said Swimmer.

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