

# The Charlotte JEWISH news

Vol. 18 No. 11

Kislev-Tevet 5757

December 1996

## The Votes Are In! The JCC Gala Was a Great Success

By Cynthia Chapman

The Jewish Community Center Tenth Anniversary Gala held on October 19 was a perfect combination of ceremony and comedy at its best. If you missed it, you missed one of the stellar events of our Jewish community.

The Gala celebrated ten years of the JCC being in Shalom Park, as well as paying tribute to the past presidents during that period who nurtured and guided the Community Center during years of tremendous challenges and growth.

For people who have been in our Charlotte Jewish community

less than ten years, the night's program gave them an overview and insight into just how significant Shalom Park and the JCC's presence there are. For people who are well-acquainted with the Park and the JCC history, the night was a wonderful, fun way to recognize the contributions of the ten men who have given of themselves to make the JCC what it is today. How do you thank a mensch who does what needs to be done and sets an example of what we as Jews and as a community can achieve when we work together? You throw a wonderful party for that person, invite

his or her peers, friends and family members and delight with everyone there in every moment of the evening!

That's just what Gala Co-Chairs Ben and Florence Jaffa and Scott and Tammy Menaker did. And, oy, what a party! Such food! There was nothing lacking and it was obvious that it was enjoyed by all. There were cuisine choices ranging from pasta, to Mexican, from exquisite hors d'oeuvres elegantly offered by an efficient and professional group of servers who tempted eye and palate with what seemed an unending supply of trays of tid-

bits first, and then served the crowd of around 400 guests with enough food to rival the best wedding or bar or bat mitzvah! All I heard about the food from guests at the gala was that it was wonderful.

But food alone does not make a good evening great. To enhance the evening and connect the JCC and its presidents with the political satire group, *The Capitol Steps*, who provided the night's comic entertainment, the Atrium at Two First Union Center was decked out in a colorful display of political regalia. Attendees were drawn into the

spirit of the night with classic straw hats completed with red, white and blue ribbons for the men and political buttons saying "Vote JCC" for the women.

Each table was creatively and colorfully decorated with a centerpiece campaign motif. Inside the theater set up for *The Capitol Steps'* performance, there were massive nets suspended from the ceiling filled with red, white and blue balloons such as are used at major political conventions. These were released at the end of *The Capitol Steps'* performance as the grand finale. A *Please see GALA on page 20*

## Federation Helps to Bring Elie Wiesel Here Soon

By Adam Bernstein

"The opposite of love is not hate. It is indifference." —Elie Wiesel

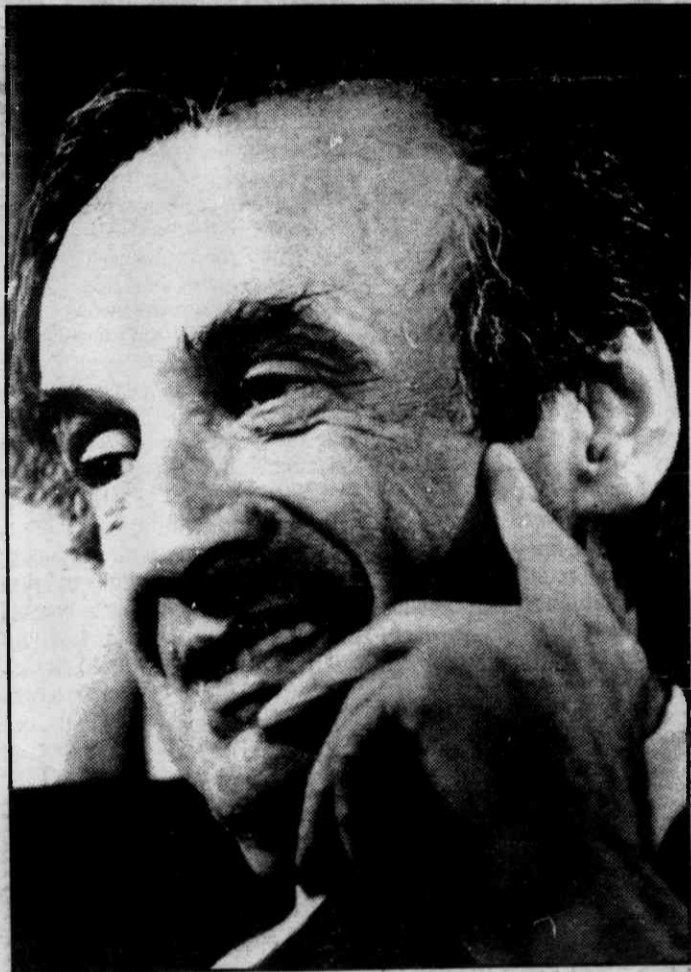
In what promises to be a defining moment for Charlotte, renowned author, humanitarian and Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel will visit the city next Spring to share his unique insights and commentary on human rights, peace, tolerance, and personal responsibility.

Wiesel's presentation, titled "Against Indifference," will take place on March 12, 1997 at the N.C. Blumenthal Performing Arts Center, beginning at 8 p.m. The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte has joined with Charlotte Latin School and the National Conference (formerly the National Conference of Christians and Jews) to sponsor the event.

Members of the local Jewish community will receive invitations in December to purchase advance tickets, priced at \$25 for adults and \$15 for students. A limited number of patron tickets are also available for \$150 each. Patron ticket holders will receive priority seating and be honored at a private reception with Wiesel, hosted by NationsBank, prior to the evening presentation.

"Wiesel reminds us that our responsibility to humankind is universal, and his messages stir in each of us a desire to make a difference," said Stephanie Goldberg Ansaldo, chair of the event and faculty member of Charlotte Latin. "Having him here is an honor, as well as a tremendous opportunity to reinforce to this community, particularly our youth, that the fortunate must never become indifferent to injustice or suffering, anywhere in the world."

Wiesel is an internationally acclaimed author of some thirty books, including *Night*, a moving personal account of his experience in the Nazi concen-



Elie Wiesel.

tration camps at Auschwitz and Buchenwald. Among the many honors he has received are the Nobel Prize for Peace, U.S. Congressional Gold Medal of Achievement, the Medal of Liberty, Grand Officer of French Foreign Legion, the Human Rights Law Award and the Humanitarian Award. Wiesel is currently Andrew W. Mellon Professor of Humanities at Boston University.

Wiesel's visit will also include a dialogue with local junior high and high school students on the Charlotte Latin campus earlier that day. To spread his messages to the widest possible audience, the

session with students is expected to be telecast live to several educational facilities around the city.

To purchase tickets, contact the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center box office at (704) 372-1000, or Ticketmaster at (704) 522-6500, or visit any Ticketmaster location. Patron tickets may be ordered by sending a check, payable to An Evening with Elie Wiesel/CLS, to Charlotte Latin School, 9502 Providence Road, Charlotte NC 28277-8695. For more information, or to volunteer for the event, contact the Federation office at 366-5007.

## Federation Announces 1997 Campaign Start

By Cynthia Chapman

The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte has announced the start of the 1997 campaign. The campaign is the community's vehicle for collecting and distributing funds to support Jewish needs here in the local community as well as in Jewish communities overseas. Without the campaign, each individual in our community would have to spend an enormous amount of time reviewing requests and making contributions to the many agencies and groups to which the Campaign channels funds. As difficult as it may be for us as individuals to decide where to distribute our funds for tzedakah, it would be much more difficult without the annual Federation campaign. Through the organization of the campaign and the efforts of the many, many individuals who make it a success, the process is handled efficiently and the tasks are shared.

This year's Campaign gears up with a Major Gift Dessert Reception which takes place Sunday, December 8 and Malcolm Hoenlein will be the guest speaker. He will also speak to the Bernstein Leadership Development group. Mr. Hoenlein is the Executive Vice Chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations, an umbrella organization for fifty national organizations. The conference coordinates policy formation and presentation on issues of international and national Jewish concern.

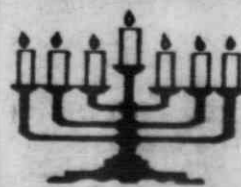
Malcolm Hoenlein has met with heads of state, governmental leaders and Jewish communities throughout the world. He is a consultant to American public



Malcolm Hoenlein.

officials and leaders, and is often featured on radio, television and in the American and international press.

The Dessert Reception begins at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Luski, 3239 Foxcroft Road in Charlotte. The 1997 campaign goal is set at \$1.6 million, an increase from last year's high of \$1.42 million. Added together, it sounds like a lot of money, and it is. Last year's successful campaign was a wonderful statement of the strength and vitality of our Charlotte Jewish community. But, as anyone who sits on the Allocation Committee can tell you, even this great accomplishment meant that some funding requests could not be answered and some community needs went unmet. Needs continue to rise and the funds to respond need to increase as well. Together, we can use the 1997 Annual Campaign as a tool to help us reach our individual and community potential.



Happy Hanukkah  
Don't miss our Hanukkah gift  
giving advertisements on Pages 8 & 9  
and elsewhere in this issue!