

# The Charlotte JEWISH news

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## NationsBank corporate underwriter for 1998 JCC Gala

**Bank giant to also sponsor 1998 JCC Maccabi Games**

NationsBank has once again shown its support of the Jewish Community Center efforts to develop in-depth programs and services for the Charlotte community with its recent announcement that it will serve as Corporate Underwriter for the 1998 JCC Gala. NationsBank's generous contribution of \$35,000 helps assure the 1998 Gala, honoring Leon Levine, will be successful in achieving its goal of raising more than \$250,000. Monies raised will help underwrite the cost of Jewish Community Center programs and services and to provide a secure infrastructure for the recently established Jewish Community Center Endowment Fund. NationsBank's commitment serves a dual function: its sponsorship provides some of the funds necessary to assure the provision of service and serves as a catalyst for other corporate and individual contributions.

On Gala night, February 14, NationsBank officials will turn out in force to help recognize Leon Levine's contributions to the Jewish Community Center and Shalom Park. Feature

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entertainers, "The Second City," the renowned Chicago based comedy/improvisation group will entertain at the black-tie affair. Sponsorships and tickets are now available. Ticket prices are structured to allow you to choose from a variety of participation opportunities. To reserve your seat(s), please call Roni Fishkin, Gala Coordinator, at 366-5007.

### NationsBank signs on as Gold Sponsor of 1998 JCC Maccabi Games

In addition to its commitment to underwrite the 1998 JCC Gala, NationsBank will also contribute an additional \$10,000 as a Gold Sponsor for the 1998 JCC Maccabi Games.

NationsBank joins Coca Cola (the national corporate sponsor for the JCC Maccabi Games) and a growing list of corporate and individual sponsors in helping raising more than \$150,000 to bring more than 600 visiting, teenage Jewish athletes to

Charlotte for a week a spirited athletic competitions from August 9-14, 1998. Lane Ostrow, 1998 JCC Maccabi Games Chairman said, "having NationsBank's support helps validate the importance and credibility of our enormous undertaking to host the 1998 JCC Maccabi Games. We really appreciate their encouragement."

Visiting athletes will come from Jewish communities throughout North America and will include a delegation from Israel. All visiting athletes must be housed with local Jewish families. The Jewish Community Center will need hundreds of volunteers to plan and administer this most exciting week of activities. For information on volunteer opportunities and/or to make contributions to the 1998 JCC Maccabi Games, please contact Barry Schumer (Games Director) or Amy London (Assistant Games Director) at 366-5007. ☆

## Roadmap to our Future

**Strategic Planning for the future  
initiated at the JCC**

By Lee Bierer

Jewish Community Center President, Eric Sklut, is pleased to announce that he has appointed Board member Mike Sinsheimer to chair the Center's **Roadmap To Our Future: A Strategic Planning Initiative**. Chairperson Sinsheimer, principal consultant for Integrated Marketing Concepts (a marketing analysis and planning company) has recruited a talented group of

beyond. Sinsheimer acknowledged that, "we hope this extensive research process will provide us with a broad spectrum of the community's visions and opinions to include in the design of the blueprints for the next phase of the Center's programmatic and facility development."

To achieve its goals, the Committee has proposed a series of research objectives and programs that were approved by the Board Of Directors this past May. The research has already included a series of 10 focus groups - more than 60 people participated in group discussions, held in a professional Focus Group Facility and moderated by professional researchers (Jeff Bierer and Eric Levy, members of the Strategic Planning Committee). The focus groups included a broad representation of the community and consisted of various combinations of Center members, non-members and former members, broken into demographic groups of different family constellations (singles, empty nesters, families with children under 12, families with teenagers, etc.). These groups discussed their perceptions of the Center's strengths and weaknesses, what they would like to see the Center be, as well as some frank discussion of specific programming needs, policy issues, recommendations for facility expansion and judgments regarding customer

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Eric Sklut

marketing industry professionals and interested community activists to serve as volunteers for the Center's Strategic Planning Committee. The Committee has been charged with the responsibility of conducting the research and designing a strategic plan that will help prepare the Center to meet the needs of our community for the year 2000 and

## NEWS ANALYSIS

### Rome And Jerusalem: the latest landmark

By Rabbi David Rosen, Director Israel Office of the Anti-Defamation League and ADL Co-Liaison to the Holy See

The conclusion of the latest agreement between the Vatican and the State of Israel heralds another milestone on a remarkable journey, not just of diplomatic normalization but of reconciliation between the Catholic Church and the Jewish people.

The radical revision of official Church teaching towards Jewry was ushered in by Pope John XXIII and the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council that he convened. This produced the historic document known by its first two words "Nostra Aetate", that not only condemned any particular charge of deicide against the Jews and also condemned anti-Semitism, but

furthermore affirmed the eternity of the Divine Covenant with the Jewish people. This set the stage for subsequent notable advances in Catholic approaches towards Judaism and Jewry, and eliminated the basis of any theological, opposition to the reestablishment of the Jewish State. However, political factors relating to the Church's communities and interests in the Middle East in particular, delayed that diplomatic normalization for almost thirty more years. In the wake of the Madrid Peace Process, the Vatican and Israel established a bilateral commission to explore and recommend the formula for full normalization between the two.

This led to the historic signing of the Fundamental Agreement between the Holy See and the State of Israel at the end of 1993, which was crowned a few months later in an exchange of Ambassadors.

That concordat commenced with a remarkable preamble that placed it in the context of "the historic process of reconciliation between the Catholic Church and the Jewish People". Indeed just as the Holy See represents more than the Vatican State in this accord, and "speaks" on behalf of the whole Catholic Church, so Israel here represents more than the State alone and "speaks" on behalf of the Jewish people as a whole. Accordingly this

Agreement did indeed have a profoundly positive impact upon Catholic-Jewish relations throughout the world. It also meant much more than just a diplomatic normalization, but rather served as the basis for a special relationship between the Holy See, the Catholic Church and the State of Israel, in which the latter undertook to give "full legal effect" — that is to say, de jure recognition — to the Catholic Church's authority in the Holy Land.

In order to understand the significance of this, it needs to be pointed out that since Ottoman times, the local Christian

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## Israel grants legal status to the Catholic Church

**Historic agreement marks  
new era in Jewish-Catholic  
relations**

On November 10, 1997 an important milestone in the ongoing process of the normalization of relations between The State of Israel and The Catholic Church was achieved with signing of the "Agreement Between The State of Israel and The Holy See." The agreement deals with the granting of legal status to the institutions of the Catholic Church in Israel.

This historic occasion marks the pinnacle of years of negotiations and follows the historic turning point, in December 1993, of the signing of The Fundamental Agreement, which allowed the establishment of full diplomatic relations between Israel and The Holy See. The agreement was signed by Israeli Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs David Levy, and the Apostolic Nuncio in Israel, Monsignor Andrea Cordero Lanza Di Montezemolo. ☆

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