

Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte Welcomes Randy Czarlinsky New Executive Director to Assume Duties in January 2002

By Amy Krakovitz

Even before he is situated in his office and is officially JFGC's Executive Director, Randy Czarlinsky is already in a saving-money mode. When I ask for his phone number to conduct an interview, he suggests questions and answers by email. Charlotte, be glad Randy Czarlinsky is coming here to bring his level head to Federation's operations.

Randy comes to us directly from Houston, Texas, where he most recently served as the Director of the Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston and the Federation's Government Affairs activities. But the move from America's fourth largest city to little ol' Charlotte isn't the major change for him that you might expect. "Even big cities, such as Houston, are actually very small cities," Randy says. "In Houston's Jewish community nearly everyone who was involved either personally knew the person you would talk about, was related to them, or was their best friend. Texas may be big, but personal friendships and relationships carry the day."

And his family is looking forward to the move as well. "The move for our family to Charlotte is seen as a quality-of-life issue for both of our kids, David and Lauren. Of course, our Golden Retriever, Wrigley Field, will appreciate the four seasons as opposed to Houston's nearly year-long summer. Finally, because my wife grew up in Greensboro, she is thrilled as she views the move as a

return home. She is also ecstatic that our kids now have in-state tuition at her alma mater—UNC-Chapel Hill. Many of her close friends from high school/BBYO and college have settled in Charlotte."

The Shalom Park campus concept is a new one to Randy, too. He has worked professionally, in addition to Houston, in Boston, Springfield, Massachusetts, Seattle, New York, Chicago, and St. Louis; he attended college at the University of Kansas and the University of Maryland; he grew up in Kansas City. No where did he ever encounter a place like Shalom Park. "The [Charlotte] Jewish community was the first to develop to the campus concept," he says. "While the congregations, schools and agencies are primarily located in the Park, it is a rare opportunity to create community. Shalom Park is not an office park, but a place where the Jewish community, from the toddler to senior adult, can participate and engage in Jewish life."

"The Park is meant to bring the community together. As the community embarks on the expansion, there will be the continued need for the common good for the community.... The expansion affords the Federation to work with the community, its agencies and the families who use the Park, to ensure that the programs, activities and resources are available to



Randy Czarlinsky

maintain and grow the Jewish experience."

As for his agenda at Charlotte's Federation office, Randy is determined that it will include, in his words, "...missions. Whether it is Jewish high school students learning about Tikkun Olam and visiting with officials in Washington, to members of the community visiting Israel, Eastern Europe or the FSU, each provides a live hands-on Jewish experience that cannot be replicated by speakers, pictures or articles. I would hope and urge the members of our community and leaders of our agencies to participate in such opportunities when they are available. Besides the fascinating first-hand experience, missions build community ties and relationships."

Randy's Curriculum Vitae is full of his vast accomplishments in community service, both inside and out of the Jewish community. It includes work with the American Jewish Committee, other local federation offices, and

The Associated Press. He has served on the boards of many community organizations including Leadership Houston, the Inter-Ethnic Forum, Interfaith Ministries of Greater Houston, and the MOSAIC newspaper, an interfaith publication.

He has visited Israel 25 times, including the West Bank and Gaza, and has met with officials in Jordan, Lebanon and Egypt. His visits to Israel frequently include taking non-Jewish influentials to the region. In 1994 he led a media delegation to Israel and Jordan. In 1996 he led a 19-member Jewish delegation, licensed by the U.S. Treasury, for a religious and humanitarian visit to Havana's Jewish community. He led a 13-member delegation in March 1988 to visit Jewish refuseniks in the USSR and organized a pilot leadership development/advocacy program for Texas and Moscow Jewish college students in Russia in December 1999.

As difficult as it may be to believe, his personal and professional experiences are even more vast than listed above. But all this has led him to this place at this time, with a philosophy few can argue with: "It really is quite simple—no one else is going to care about the Jewish community or its

future. Jews are responsible for Jews. Whether they reside in Charlotte, NY, Cuba, Argentina, the Ukraine or in Israel, we are responsible for one another. Throughout history, we have learned that if we do not advocate and provide funds for our future, no one else will either." ☆



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New Officers Take Helm at United Jewish Communities

Washington, DC — James S. Tisch, President and Chief Executive Officer of Loews Corp., was elected as the new Chair of the Board of United Jewish Communities (UJC) at the organization's General Assembly in Washington, DC.

Robert Goldberg, President of Ohio Savings Bank, UJC Treasurer, and Immediate Past Board Chair of the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland, was elected Vice Chair of UJC and Chair of the Executive Committee of UJC.

Morton B. Plant, Chairman of the Associated: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore and Chair of the UJC Budget Committee, was elected UJC Treasurer.

The new officers assumed their responsibilities immediately and will serve one-year terms. Tisch succeeded Charles R. Bronfman, who served two terms as UJC Chair. Goldberg succeeded Joel D. Tauber, and Plant succeeded Goldberg as UJC Treasurer.

Tisch, former president of UJA-Federation of New York, has a distinguished business and philanthropic background. He is past campaign chair at UJA-Federation and is a board member of Federation Employment and Guidance Services of New York, a trustee of Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York, and a member of the Board of Overseers of the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. He is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Cornell University and received a Master's of Business Administration degree

from the Wharton School.

Tisch summed up the goals of his chairmanship after the Board vote.

"My agenda is simple: to gain control of overhead and budget; creating one that is transparent and supportable, and to promote our programs supporting Jews here in

America and around the world."

Goldberg, who served as Board Chair at the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland from 1997 to 2000, and is a Trustee for Life there, is founding chair of the Federation's Partnership 2000 Steering Committee. He is a

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