

Letter to the Editor

Response to Mitch Rifkin's Letter from November 2006 CJN

Dear Editor:

First of all, let me extend heartfelt congratulations to Hal Levinson and to all who make our community great by their participation. Next, I would like to revisit some of Mitch Rifkin's comments about the "One for All Ball" and his misplaced disappointment.

Although the celebration was for a worthy cause, there are many worthy causes in our community. In the past year most of us have been touched in some way by the hurricanes, the war in Iraq and the call to support Israel in her time of need. We have rallied to the call and donated time, money and support over and over again.

Each individual has the responsibility of allocating his or her time, money and resources among causes they deem worthy. This responsibility is a wonderful part of our community and is the reason we have so many events and programs and are able to reach out to so many in need. Judging someone unfavorably because they do not or cannot attend a function that someone else deems "the event of the year" is not exactly a charitable attitude.

Not everyone has the same amount of discretionary income available to them, so please don't

judge someone choosing instead to donate money to the Yom Kippur Appeal or the Israel Emergency Fund. The "mere" \$200 per person cost of the Ball, which is \$400 per couple, not to mention buying something decent to wear and possibly paying for a sitter, is more than the entire month's food budget for some families and therefore not by any means discretionary income.

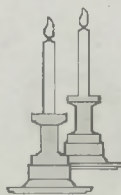
Looking at the list of donated auction items, it is evident that not everyone was asked to participate. Are you aware of the Business and Professional Networking Group that meets twice a month to encourage Jews helping other Jews grow their businesses? Did it occur to anyone to come to a meeting and ask if a member would like to donate goods or services to help both support the fundraiser and their business?

We have many civic minded, charity conscious members of our community. They give behind the scenes and are never recognized for their contribution, which doesn't seem to dampen their spirit of giving. And that's a good thing, especially when they are chastised for not doing enough.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Golynsky

SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING FOR DECEMBER 2006

- Friday, December 1, 4:53 PM
- Friday, December 8, 4:53 PM
- Friday, December 15, 4:54 PM
- Friday, December 22, 4:57 PM
- Friday, December 29, 5:01 PM



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Federation News



Young Adults "Come to the Table"

In a powerful show of support for young adult initiatives in the Charlotte Jewish community, 55 young adults (45 and under) gathered at the Levine JCC on Tuesday evening, October 17, to brainstorm ideas for future programming and outreach. The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte convened the "Come to the Table" meeting in partnership with the Levine JCC, Temple Beth El and Temple Israel. Chai Expectations' Laurie Berzack helped promote the event.

Through the use of small group processing and voting, the crowd generated 150 ideas and then narrowed them down to the top 30. Josh Greenwald, Manager of Leadership Development for Bank of America, facilitated.

Currently a task force spearheaded by the Levine JCC is being formed to implement the top ideas discussed at the meeting. This task force will include leaders from various Jewish commu-



Brian Goldsmith leads a group through the ideation process at the "Come to the Table" meeting on October 17.

nal agencies in Charlotte, and regular programming will begin in early 2007.

For more information, please contact Jodi Greenwald at 704-944-6759 or by email jodi.greenwald@jewishcharlotte.org.



Uptowners to get Sneak Peek at "Families of Abraham" Exhibit

Uptowners is an arm of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte designed to involve members of the business and professional community. Please join us on Wednesday, December 13, at 12 noon (preordered box lunch available for purchase) in Harris Hall at the Levine Museum of the New South, 200 E. Seventh Street. This month our guest speaker is Laura Everett, Director of Education and Programs for the Levine Museum of the New South. Ms. Everett will give us a

sneak peek at the "Families of Abraham" photographic, narrative exhibit debuting at the museum December 15 and running through May 6, 2007. This new exhibit explores the similarities and differences among the three Abrahamic faiths and reflects on the common human experience. A team of photographers led by project director and exhibit curator Eleanor Brawley, spent eleven months interviewing and photographing families from each of these faiths, capturing their day-

to-day lives, family milestones and cultural traditions.

For more information or to register for this event, please contact Jodi Greenwald in the Federation office at 704-944-6759 or by email at jodi.greenwald@jewishcharlotte.org.



CONTENTS

Federation News	pp. 2-6	Judaic Library and Resource Center	pp. 18
Schools	pp. 7-10	Synagogues and Congregations	pp. 19, 22, 23, 26
Women's Page	p. 11	Jewish Community Center	pp. 20, 21
Community News	pp. 12-15	Dining Out	pp. 24, 25
Jewish Family Services	p. 16	Mazel Tov	p. 27
Jewish Traveler	p. 17	Youth Visions	pp. 28, 29
		Hanukkah	pp. 30, 31

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