

JEWISH FEDERATION NEWS

Author Praise for Spring Lecture Author Susan Isaacs



Susan Isaacs

"Susan Isaacs has an incredibly good ear for dialogue and a very sharp eye for the silly and stupid things people really do. Picture yourself laughing out loud while sitting on the edge of your seat and furiously flipping pages. The clever plot, the quick pace, and the pitch-perfect writing are good clues that *Past Perfect* was written by a master storyteller." — Nelson DeMille, author of *Wild Fire*.

"There has to be a name for the literary form Susan Isaacs has invented: the funny scary book. The woman who made us laugh as well as shiver in fear over a murder investigation in *Compromising Positions* has done the same thing for the CIA and international espionage. *Past Perfect* made me laugh, but it also kept me jumping out of bed every time a floorboard creaked in my old house." — Sara Paretsky, author of *Fire Sale*.

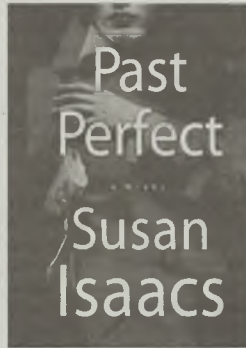
"I love Susan Isaacs! Her books come straight from the heart, and her characters are smart, funny, and feisty enough to be your best girlfriend — not only for three hundred pages, but for life. *Past Perfect* introduces Katie Schottland — a terrific galpal who packs her kid off to summer camp and sleuths as a CIA analyst with equal style. Put simply, *Past Perfect* is perfect!" — Lisa Scottoline, author of *Dirty Blonde*.

From the New York Times bestselling author of *Any Place I Hang My Hat*, *Compromising Positions*, and *Shining Through*, Susan Isaacs releases a wonderful new novel about a woman ousted from the CIA who, years later, finds herself back in the game.

Katie Schottland, the protagonist in Susan Isaacs's new book, *Past Perfect* calls herself a "Total Manhattan Sushi Woman." She grew up on New York City's Upper East Side, is Jewish, married to a WASP and, as the novel opens, is preparing to take her ten-year-old son to weight-loss camp. Katie is clever, funny and intrepid—a woman you want to root for. In short, she is the quintessential Isaacs character.

In *Past Perfect*, Isaacs revisits the CIA, a subject she touched on in *Shining Through*. The character, Katie, fired 15 years ago from her job

as an analyst at the agency without explanation, now writes a TV show called "Spy Guys." She still wonders why she got the boot, but has tried to let it go—until she gets a call from an old co-worker promising information about her dismissal. When the caller disappears, Katie's right back into it, and she embarks on a mission to find this woman and discover what she knows. The search leads her through a trove of memories of her days at the CIA, with the fall of the Berlin Wall (which was happening when she was at the agency) serving as the backdrop



going to break the code for me. And I don't want them to. What I want is: How does it operate? I want to hear them tell whatever they're going to tell for the language, for their style."

While her characters may come from her experiences, Isaacs is careful to make sure the narrator - not the author - tells the story. If a reader says of one of her characters: "Oh, that's Susan Isaacs Long Island Jewish/mother/grandmother blah blah blah," then I've failed," says Isaacs, "because I've brought you back into my world, and I've taken you away from the universe of the character."

Isaacs is just as careful with her writing/editing method. No one sees the novel until it's finished (except for her husband, a criminal defense lawyer) and she

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for espionage and sleuthing.

To research the novel, Isaacs met with some former CIA agents, though her goal was to learn their methods, not to uncover information. "Look," she says, her New York pedigree obvious in the accent that spices up her speech, "nobody's going to give me secret stuff. Nobody's

Jewish Federation 2007 Annual Campaign in Full Swing

The Annual Campaign 2007 has set an ambitious goal to raise three million dollars for Charlotte's dynamic and ever-growing Jewish community that includes more than 23-partnered agencies. As of February 15, we have raised \$1,960,560. Under the able leadership of Todd Gorelick, 2007 Annual Campaign Chair, we are on our way to reaching our goal.

The Annual Campaign funds programs that serve in various ways to strengthen Jewish identity, assist the vulnerable, and aid those in need. The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte's agencies and supported programs care for the neediest among us, in Charlotte, nationally and overseas. In the Charlotte community, we care for our aged and assure their quality of life; we feed, comfort and shelter our neighbors who are abused or neglected; we assist in providing a quality Jewish education for our children; we teach Jews of all ages about our heritage and traditions, and help ensure the future of the Jewish people. By raising funds, the Annual Campaign strives to maintain the vibrancy of the Charlotte Jewish community and continues to

grow in response to the community's needs. The Annual Campaign's greatest challenge is in ensuring continued funding for current services and programs. As the demand for services in our community continue to grow, so too do the needs of our partner agencies.

A percentage of the monies from the Annual Campaign are directed to Israel, in the hope that together we can make a difference for our Israeli

brethren who are weakened by economic distress and facing increased violence.

Achieving success in the community campaign starts with each and every one of you — with your generous spirit, time and resources. With everyone's participation, our community is stronger and our future more secure. Please contribute to our Annual Campaign — together, we can do

a world of good. ☆

LIVE GENEROUSLY.®
It does a world of good.

JEWISH FEDERATION
OF GREATER CHARLOTTE
Local, Global, Eternal

2007 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN
\$3,000,000

65% of Goal

\$1,960,560

WHY DO I CALL?

"The more I learn about the vital role the Federation has in the Jewish community providing for children, newcomers, young families, people in need, seniors - the more proud I am to support the incredible things the Federation does."

Crystal Ben-Yohanan
Federation Volunteer and Donor
Super Sunday Co-chair, 2007

WHY DO I ANSWER?

"Life seems easy for many of us, but there are people in our community, in Israel, and elsewhere who are not so fortunate. If we don't help them, who will?"

Elaine Moody
Federation Volunteer and Donor
Super Sunday Co-chair 2007

Answer the Call.

Please join Crystal and Elaine as Super Sunday Volunteers. Our joint efforts to reach nearly 1,000 households will strengthen our Jewish family locally, in Israel, and around the world.

SUPER SUNDAY

SUNDAY, MARCH 11, 2007

Pledge online at www.jewishcharlotte.org

To volunteer or participate in the day, please contact Sue Littauer, Campaign Director, at the Federation office. sue.littauer@jewishcharlotte.org or call 704.944.6758

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