

JEWISH FEDERATION NEWS

9th Annual Spring Lecture Features Susan Isaacs

Federation's 9th Annual Spring Lecture took place on April 12. Author Susan Isaacs came to speak to the community about her writing process, her Judaism and her newest book, *Past Perfect*.

The evening began with a lovely champagne reception for the event's sponsors and committee members. Isaacs greeted everyone as if they were already dear friends. The interesting and exotic cheeses were a palatable complement to the dry champagne that was served.

This year, for the first time, the Spring Lecture is considered a women's campaign event

rather than an outreach event and participants' campaign pledges will benefit the 2007 Federation Annual Campaign.

The program began with a welcome by Event Co-Chair Jenny Meiselman. She was followed by Beth Mann, Managing Director Women's Philanthropy for United Jewish Communities, who said that our Jewish togetherness in Shalom Park reminded her of how Jews all over the world are connected to one another.

After Beth, Iris Feinberg, the Annual Campaign Chair of the Atlanta Jewish Federation, spoke of her personal experi-

ences as an emissary for Federation. She has had the opportunity to see for herself how Federation's dollars can help: she brought joy to children confined to bomb shelters during last summer's Lebanese War in Israel; she brought food and medicine to an elderly couple in the FSU; she helped women in Argentina create a new business that has since turned profitable.

Feinberg believes that any one of us, like her, can make a difference by doing just one thing. And Federation can help make that difference.

The featured speaker, Susan Isaacs, began her writing career

as an editor at *Seventeen* magazine and as a speechwriter for local Democratic candidates in New York City. When she had her children and stayed home with them, she read four to five mysteries a week. "I probably became deranged," she quipped, because reading all those mysteries convinced her that she could write one herself. She bought a book on how to write a novel and followed the directions exactly. The result was her first book *Compromising Positions*, a bestseller that was later made into a movie with Susan Sarandon and Michael Douglas.

Now she disciplines herself to write three hours a day no matter what. And the results have been eleven bestselling novels.

Isaacs was funny and entertaining and occasionally self-deprecating, and her innate sense of humor was truly on display that evening.

The event concluded with a book signing and a scrumptious dessert buffet. Perhaps the only thing that could top this Spring Lecture will be the 10th Annual Spring Lecture next year. ☆



Amy Augustine and Tracy Brown, individual table sponsors.



Beth Mann, Managing Director Women's Philanthropy for United Jewish Communities, Stacy Gorelick, individual table sponsor, and Iris Feinberg, Annual Campaign Chair Atlanta Federation



Jenny Meiselman, Spring Lecture Co-chair, Susan Isaacs, Dana Meiselman, Spring Lecture Co-chair



Susan Isaacs with Lisa Zucker, and Judy Laxer, event sponsor



Sheri Gersin and Donna Greene at book signing.

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