

# The Roots of The Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community

By Phil Warshauer, director, FCJC

In the April issue of *The Charlotte Jewish News*, I expressed my objective to familiarize you with the role of the Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community (FCJC). Since many of you are new to Charlotte as am I, perhaps a history lesson about this valuable philanthropic organization is appropriate. It is helpful to remember where we've been in order to appreciate the present and properly plan for the future.

While looking through the files recently, I uncovered a news release from 1997 that announced the start of the FCJC and its affiliation with Foundation For The Carolinas. Don Bernstein, the inaugural board chair of FCJC, said in the news release, "We realized there was a need for some central organization that would benefit both donors and our heritage. This venture will bring a new dimension of philanthropy to our area."

It was planned that the FCJC would become a supporting organization of Foundation For The Carolinas thereby receiving technical and administrative support from its professional staff. This was especially significant during the early years of FCJC as it worked to create its own identity with minimal resources.

Flexibility was a key component of the newly formed Foundation's strategy. Donors could establish funds to benefit not only Jewish philanthropies, but also a broad spectrum of charitable organizations. Donors to the Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community would receive numerous tax advantages and expanded giving opportunities. In addition, the FCJC would be able to pool its investments with other funds at Foundation For The Carolinas for cost-effective management of FCJC assets.

Don Bernstein was joined on that first board by Bob Abel, Mark Bernstein, Meg Goldstein, and Harry Lerner among others. They had vision. This special relationship between the FCJC and Foundation For The Carolinas is now stronger than ever. It exists to assist and support the Jewish community in raising and managing funds for future and current needs. This allows each Jewish organization to focus its attentions on congregants and members, as well as their core spiritual, educational and cultural programs. Foundation For The Carolinas provides the FCJC with the support it needs to service Charlotte's Jewish community. It is a unique relationship that serves our community well.

The August 1998 issue of *The Charlotte Jewish News* made note of the progress of the newly

formed FCJC. A story published at the time highlighted the fact that within a year of its creation, the FCJC had already received the full support of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, the Foundation of Shalom Park, the Jewish Community Center, Temple Beth El, Temple Israel, the Hebrew Cemetery and several donors utilizing Donor Advised accounts. At that time the FCJC had assets of \$5.4 million.

In that 1998 *Charlotte Jewish News* story, Don Bernstein once again expressed his optimism and excitement about the new philanthropic organization's ability to raise funds for community support and provide a much needed service for the Charlotte Jewish community. "Working with an accountant, financial planner, attorney, or with the resources at Foundation For The Carolinas, the benefits of planned giving can be rewarding to the donor and immense for the community," he said.

I hope Don Bernstein and those who helped to establish the FCJC are proud. Those funds have grown substantially and more funds have been added as more trust has been built between organizations and foundations; organizations and donors; and foundations and donors. After five

(Continued on page 8)

704.609.5639 BRUCE MEHLMAN  
BROKER / REALTOR®/CSC  
bmehlman@hclcnadamsrealty.com

HELEN ADAMS REALTY  
YOUR BUSINESS AND PREFERENCES ARE APPRECIATED!

M to 2 Carolinas

18255-John J Delaney Dr :: Charlotte, NC 28277 :: 704.841.0279

**Malak Jewelers**

SouthPark Mall & The Arboretum  
704-366-7979 704-341-1188  
www.malakjewelers.com



**YOU...**  
...just younger

A non-surgical liquid face lift softens fine lines and wrinkles. It's a vibrant, fresh look...but it's still you.

**\$100 OFF NON-SURGICAL FACE LIFT**  
BOTOX Restylane Radiesse  
Juvederm CosmoDerm\*

\*Services may vary by location. Offers expire August 30, 2007. For franchise information, visit [agelessremedies.com/franchise](http://agelessremedies.com/franchise).

**GIVE A \$120 GIFT CERTIFICATE FOR \$100**

**SOUTH PARK - OPEN SUNDAYS**

Morrocraff Village - Near Borders Bookstore  
3900-C Colony Road, Charlotte, NC 28211 704.364.3332  
MANAGING DIRECTOR: Elaine Greenberg

**LAKE NORMAN** Regency Village, Huntersville  
I-77 Exit 25, left on Sam Furr Road  
Two miles ahead on your left 704.896.FACE

**Ageless Remedies®**

medical skincare & apothecary

[www.agelessremedies.com](http://www.agelessremedies.com)

MEDICAL DIRECTOR: Paul Greenberg, MD