

# Federation's Main Event Features Author Michael Oren

The Jewish Federation's 2008 Annual Campaign will officially kick-off on Sunday, February 10 during The Main Event "America in the Middle East" featuring distinguished guest speaker Michael Oren. The long anticipated Federation event will be held at Temple Israel and will begin at 7:30 PM. A lavish dessert reception and book signing will follow the program.

Michael Oren is a Senior Fellow at the Shalem Center, a research facility in Jerusalem founded by graduates of Princeton, Harvard and Tel Aviv University with the aim of strengthening the Jewish people and Israel.

An expert on the diplomatic and military history of the Middle East, Oren has written extensively for *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *The New Republic*. He is the bestselling author of *Six Days of War: June 1967 and the Making of the Modern Middle East* published in 2002, which won both the *Los Angeles Times*' History Book of the Year Prize and the National Jewish Book Award.

His most recent book, *Power, Faith, and Fantasy: America in the Middle East, 1776 to the Present*, was an instant success, listed on the *New York Times* bestseller list for eight weeks.

A graduate of Princeton and Columbia universities, Michael Oren has received fellowships from the U.S. Departments of State and Defense, and from the British and Canadian governments. He was a Lady Davis Fellow of Hebrew University and a Moshe Dayan Fellow at Tel-Aviv University. In 2006,

he was a visiting professor at Harvard and Yale. He has briefed the White House and testified before Congress on Middle East Affairs.

**"When we were asked to chair The Main Event, it didn't take us very long to say yes."**

- Main Event co-chairs  
Stacey Schefflin Slomka  
and Ira Slomka

Raised in New Jersey where he was active in Zionist youth movements, Michael Oren was a gold medal winning athlete in the Maccabiah Games. He moved to Israel in the 1970s and served as an officer in the Israel Defense Forces. He was a paratrooper in the first Lebanon War, a liaison with the U.S. Sixth Fleet during the Gulf War, and an army spokesman in the second Lebanon War. In addition, he represented the Prime Minister's Office to Jewish refuseniks in the Soviet Union, and was an advisor to Israel's delegation to the United Nations. He also served as Director of Inter-Religious Affairs in the government of Yitzhak Rabin.

To offset the costs of The Main Event, a "Trip to Israel" raffle will be held and the winning ticket will be drawn during the dessert reception after Mr. Oren's talk. Each of the 100 Tickets will be sold for \$100 but only one prize will be granted. The winner will have the



Michael Oren

following options - \$2,500 in cash or up to but not exceeding \$3,000 for a Trip to Israel. The \$3,000 can be applied to any trip to Israel and will be used to reimburse expenses paid by the winner. The prize can be transferred to a member of the winner's immediate family.

**"Federation is... committed to supporting Israel, which affects us very personally."**

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Event co-chairs Stacey Schefflin Slomka and Ira Slomka have assembled an incredible Steering Committee with representatives from all the Jewish Federation's local beneficiary agencies as well as Sun City's Shalom Club, the Lake Norman Jewish community, Hadassah, and the International Studies Department at UNCC. According to co-chairs, Stacey

and Ira Slomka, "When we were asked to chair The Main Event, it didn't take us very long to say 'yes'. Federation is one of the few organizations where you are able to see your dollars at work immediately. We always explain to our non-Jewish friends that the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte is 'The United Way of Jewish Agencies.' As soon as you make your donation you see the result. Most people in the Charlotte Jewish community belong to or participate in one or more of the Jewish agencies here in Charlotte which benefit from Federation dollars. Whether you plan to be here three years or thirty - the benefit is immediate. Federation is also committed to supporting Israel, which affects us very personally. We are proud to have our name associated with this event."

Stacey represented the US and was a gold medal winner in tennis in the 1989 and 1993 Maccabiah Games and Ira has traveled extensively throughout Israel while visiting cousins.

Event tickets at \$36 per person and raffle tickets at \$100 each can be purchased online at [www.jewishcharlotte.org](http://www.jewishcharlotte.org) or by calling the Federation office at 704-944-6757.

*The mission of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte is to raise and distribute funds to support and enrich the lives of Jews locally, nationally, in Israel and worldwide. Through education, planning and community building, the Federation's mission ensures that Jewish values, goals, traditions and connections are preserved for current and future generations. ☆*

## Main Event Steering Committee

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## Shagadelic Chanukah Party

Yeah baby! Over 100 young Jewish Charlotteans found their mojo at the Shagadelic Chanukah Party December 6 at Big Ben. Co-sponsored by the Jewish Federation, the Levine JCC, Temple Beth El and Temple Israel, this event was a huge success. For more information

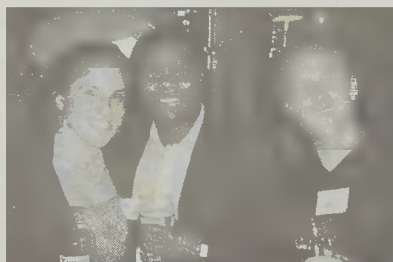
about the Young Adult Department (YAD) at the Jewish Federation, please contact Jodi Greenwald at 704-944-6759 or [jodi.greenwald@jewishcharlotte.org](mailto:jodi.greenwald@jewishcharlotte.org). Also, please save the date for a Purim party on Saturday, March 22. ☆



Jill and Michael Dinerman



Lauren Moskowitz, Mark Schreiber, and Pam Meyers



Sarah Kaplan, Daniel Gura, and Josh Borin



Alyssa Legler, Jessica Bloomfield, and Laura Cherny

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