

Federation Main Event Featured Powerful Speaker Brigitte Gabriel

The Main Event of the 2008 Annual Campaign featured Brigitte Gabriel, a fiercely articulate and powerfully compelling speaker who is an anti-terrorism activist and former Middle East Television World Anchor. Ms. Gabriel ignited the full house on February 28 with the passionate recounting of her life story. A Christian Arab native of South Lebanon, Ms. Gabriel survived the first attack of the Lebanese civil war in 1975 followed by seven years in subterranean hiding while Lebanon was under Islamic attack.

It was only Israel – the country her Arabic culture dictated was the enemy – that offered help and protection to the Christians in Lebanon. In 1982 when her mother was wounded, she was sent to Israel for medical treatments. For her mother it was a life-saving experience; for Gabriel it was a life-altering experience.

"I experienced the values of the Israelis who were able to love their enemy in their most trying moments. I spent 22 days at that hospital; those days changed my life and the way I believe information, the way I

listen to the radio or to television," said Gabriel.

Following a broadcasting career, Gabriel founded American Congress for Truth – a non-profit organization dedicated to inform, inspire and motivate Americans to take action against terrorism.

Ms. Gabriel warned, "So many times in the last 100 years, citizens have stood by and done nothing, allowing evil to prevail. As America stood up against and defeated Communism, now it is time to stand up against the terror of religious bigotry and intolerance."

A lavish and beautiful dessert reception followed the lecture due to the special talents of Mary Reel Catering and Creative Events. During the reception, Ms. Gabriel signed copies of her book *Because They Hate: A Survivor of Islamic Terror Warns America*.

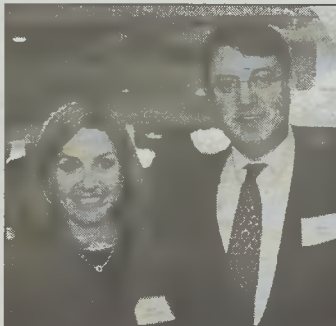
The Federation thanks the dedicated 2008 Main Event co-chairs Ira and Stacey Slomka for their tireless efforts in planning all of the details of the event. A 66-member Main Event Steering Committee assisted the Slomkas in their efforts to promote the event to

the entire Jewish community.

This year's Main Event raised over \$72,000 representing a 17% increase in pledges over the 2007 Annual Campaign. Every gift counts as we reach our 2008 campaign goal of \$3,180,000. When you make a gift to Federation's Annual Campaign, you make a difference in the lives of Jewish people of all ages here in Charlotte, in Israel and in more than 60 countries throughout the world. Thank you for living generously. It does a world of good. ☆



Main Event speaker Brigitte Gabriel, Jill Newman and Federation President Bob Abel.



Julie Lerner Levine and 2008 Annual Campaign Chair Eric Lerner.



Kevin Archer, Holly Levinson, Alan Kronovet, and Hal Levinson.

Campaign 2008 at a Glance

Campaign Total to Date	\$2,253,866
Number of Contributions	516
Percentage of Campaign Complete	71%

as of March 17, 2008



Ruth Goldberg, Rose Luski, Rhoda Gleitherman, and Alan Goldberg.



BBYOers, Kim Gould and Jenny Willenzik, assist with the coat check.



Event Chairs Stacey and Ira Slomka, Brigitte Gabriel, and Eric and Aly Lerner.



Brenda Levin, Jill Yass and David Levin

Photos courtesy
Emily Mattos,
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