

# JEWISH FEDERATION NEWS

## Tenth Annual Spring Lecture Featured Author Jenna Blum

The Tenth Annual Spring Lecture sponsored by the Women's Division of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte was held on Thursday, April 3 and featured Jenna Blum as the guest speaker.

The event was co-chaired by Ellyn Gross and Lauren Weiser who led a very talented and dedicated team of volunteers including Amy Augustine, Debbie Freedman, Jenny Meiselman, Janie Meyers, Linda Seigel, Lisa Cohen Shapiro and Liz Winer. The committee not only worked on the overall planning of the event, but also on marketing and securing corporate and individual sponsorships.

Many thanks go to **Mama Ricotta's** and **RBC Centura Bank** for their contributions on the Sustaining Sponsorship level.

Event Sponsors were **Carolinas HealthCare Foundation**, **Jane's**

**Gems Boutique**, **Mike Littauer Agency** - **Allstate Insurance**, **Perfect Image Printing**, **Polka Dot Bakery** and **Varji and Varji**.

Our Individual Table Sponsors were **Laxer, Long and Savage, DDS, Sheri Makowski, Dana Meiselman and Jenny Meiselman** and **Linda Seigel**.

Ellyn Gross welcomed the over 250 women who attended the dinner which was held in the Sandra and Leon Levine Social Hall at Temple Israel. The room was beautifully decorated in chocolate brown and baby blue by Creative Events, and the delicious dinner was catered by **Mama Ricotta's**.

The Lecture took place in the Sanctuary and after warmly welcoming the group Lauren Weiser introduced Meg D. Goldstein who is Of Counsel in the Charlotte Office of Poyner & Spruill, and practices in the

areas of trusts and estates, taxation, charitable giving and entities. Meg is a well respected and valued volunteer in our own Jewish community and additionally fundraises for United Jewish Communities' Network of Independent Communities. Meg talked about the power of women's philanthropy, the importance of the Federation Annual Campaign, and the impact that every dollar makes in the lives of Jews in need at home, in Israel and around the world.

The highlight of the evening arrived when the lovely, articulate and passionate author of *Those Who Save Us*, Jenna Blum stepped up to the microphone. Through word of mouth and clever marketing, *Those Who Save Us* climbed to #18 on the New York Times Paperback Best Seller List in February. To promote the book, Ms. Blum, a first time novelist, spoke to

book clubs, temple groups, and federations throughout the country, and praise for the book created a buzz that spread from mother to daughter, friend to friend and book club to book club. When Ms. Blum asked the audience how many women had read the book, a sea of hands went up. Jenna quickly made over 250 new "best friends" in the audience who were captivated by her warm and witty yet honest remarks.

A favorite question with the crowd was "Who would play the book's main characters in the movie?" The answer: Anna in later in life - Meryl Streep; young Anna - Kate Winslet; and Trudy - Jodie Foster.

The evening concluded with a dessert reception featuring a spectacular display of cupcakes by Polka Dot Bakery, and a book signing with author Jenna

Blum who warmly chatted with each fan and new friend purchasing books.

If you would like to get involved or share ideas for the 11th Annual Spring Lecture, please contact Sue Littauer, Development Director at the Jewish Federation, by calling her at 704-944-6758 or emailing [sue.littauer@jewishcharlotte.org](mailto:sue.littauer@jewishcharlotte.org).

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. ☆



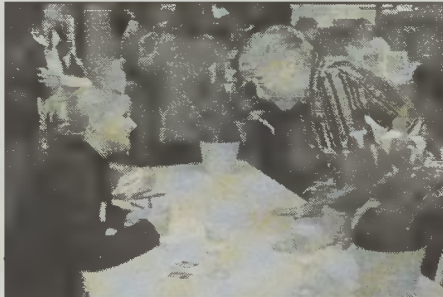
### Campaign 2008 at a Glance

Campaign Total to Date	\$2,628,659
Number of Contributions	1,225
Percentage of Campaign Complete	82.7%

as of April 12, 2008



Table sponsors Jenny Meiselman (left) and Dana Meiselman (right) join Federation Executive Director Sue Worrel.



Author Jenna Blum sings a book for table captain Judy Morganstein. Photo courtesy Arthur Mattos, ArtShots.



Co-chairs Lauren Weiser (left) and Ellyn Gross (right) with author Jenna Blum.



Linda Bass chats with author Jenna Blum. Photo courtesy Arthur Mattos, ArtShots.

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Stacy Gorelick contemplates the cupcakes from Polka Dot Bakery. Photo courtesy Arthur Mattos, ArtShots.

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