

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT # 1208  
CHARLOTTE, NC

# The Charlotte JEWISH news

Vol. 30, No. 6      Iyar-Sivan-Tamuz 5768      June-July 2008

An Affiliate of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte

## Rabbi Shields to Lead Lake Norman Jewish Congregation

In a historic and joyful first, a full time Rabbi will lead the thriving congregation in the Lake Norman area.

Beginning June 1, Michael Shields will become rabbi of the Lake Norman Jewish Congregation (Reform) in the Lake Norman area. Rabbi Shields and the LNJC were brought together by a lengthy but meaningful matching process that included initial interviews in Los Angeles, CA, followed by a week-end-long interview in Davidson, NC. Rabbi Shields and the LNJC congregation had an opportunity to get acquainted and discuss the bright future of the growing Jewish community in the Lake

area. "The congregational leadership has already created a community that welcomes all, and is committed to the education of children and adults," says Shields.

LNJC is a spiritual home for Jews in the North Charlotte and the Lake Norman area. "We welcome all who seek a spiritual home, wish to engage in learning, or desire a community that wants to rejoice with them in times of happiness and be a loving presence in times of hardship," says Shields. "We are excited about the opportunity the congregation has to build a meaningful community for all from its genesis."

"This is a huge milestone in the growth of LNJC," says Slade



Rabbi Michael Shields

Goldstein, president. "We can now offer our congregation the many benefits of full-time rabbinic lead-

ership. We couldn't have found a better rabbi to lead us into the future. These are very exciting times for LNJC."

As Rabbi Joshua Davidson, one mentor of Rabbi Shields says: "The synagogue is a kehilah kedoshah—a sacred community. Like a Sukkah, it is constructed of many different branches woven together: the young, the old, the rich and the poor, the married and the unmarried, single parents, grandparents, gays and heterosexuals, non-Jewish spouses. The broader the Sukkah's reach, the more tightly its branches are woven, the stronger it stands." Rabbi Shields and the LNJC believe in this holy conception of

community and invite all to come join in fashioning the future of the community.

Rabbi Shields will have office space in Davidson and at Davidson College. He received his M.A. in Hebrew Literature, M.A. in Religious Education, and Rabbinical Ordination at Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion. His interests include social action, connecting Judaism with the outdoors, music, and the search for meaning in the modern world.

For more information, visit [www.LakeNormanjc.org](http://www.LakeNormanjc.org). ✪

## Temple Beth El Campaign Surpasses \$9 Million Mark

By Larry Polsky

Believe it or not, Temple Beth El's capital and endowment campaign has generated \$9.28 million in pledges and, equally impressive, more than 550 donors have contributed to the effort. So how did we come so far?



Larry Polsky

Any meaningful goal that stretches an organization to perform the unlikely takes ideas, dedication, passion, understanding, and hard work of a large and unified group of people who feel the commitment.

We have such a group, led by Rabbi Schindler, our Executive Director, Sara Schreibman and a highly dedicated staff. We've been blessed to have Jonathan Howard serve so very capably at the helm together with an outstanding Board of Directors. And the campaign cabinet whose donor responsibilities were skillfully shared by Fred Dumas, Rich Gilbert, Rich Osborne, and Mitch Rifkin. Other key cabinet positions included an impressive communications effort headed by Adam Bernstein and a financial oversight function led by Mickey Aberman and Kathy Rosenfeld. In addition, there were approximately 65 other volunteers (ages 33 to 90) who among other things participated in phonathons and cultivation events; engaged tirelessly in face-to-face and over-the-phone solicitations; manned tables at virtually every Friday night service;

and the list of fundraising activities goes on and on.

And what about the congregants who financially supported this huge undertaking?

Every single donation has made a difference. Each of us on the campaign cabinet can cite many instances of congregants who dug deep into their pockets to pledge. Widows and widowers, single parents, teenagers, recent newcomers, and even some unemployed recognized the need and said "We want to help; we want to be part of this effort."

Jack Welch, former Chairman and CEO of the General Electric Company, said that "the best organizations create a vision, articulate the vision, passionately own the vision, and relentlessly drive it to completion." That's exactly what this organization has done over the last seventeen months and that's exactly what we will do until we reach our \$10 million goal. Thank you to the clergy, staff, volunteers and donors who are helping to make Temple Beth El a very special place. ✪



## Saving the Children

### Henry Gorelick Raises Awareness of Tragedy in Rwanda and the Agahozo Shalom Youth Village

More than a million children were displaced after the ethnic cleansing in Rwanda in the early 1990s.

"My first thought was of ... orphan survivors of the Holocaust," said Anne Heyman, founder of the Agahozo Shalom Youth Village. ASYV, a special project of the non-sectarian segment of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), provides a protected residential environment and a high school for 500 Rwandan orphans. The Village offers innovative educational programs, sports, a health clinic, and psychological services.

Here in Charlotte, Henry Gorelick was looking for special project for the community service portion of his Bar Mitzvah. At about the same time his grandmother, Debby Miller, who serves on the board of the JDC, mentioned to him the Agahozo Shalom Youth Village. "I was awestruck," says Henry, in



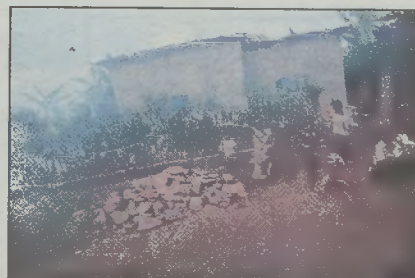
Henry Gorelick

a manner that belies his youth, "and knew I wanted to help."

In conjunction with his Bar Mitzvah, Henry showed the movie *Hotel Rwanda* to the community and invited speaker Tina Wyatt, one of the founders of the project, to Charlotte.

ASYV is based on Yemin Orde, a similar village in Israel, that has housed and educated a generation of Ethiopian Jews. In their effort to pay back what they have received, a team of Ethiopian-Israelis will serve as mentors for the educators and role models for ASYV students.

The Village is expected to become operational in 2009. Henry hopes that our local community will research, become familiar with, and support the Village. "What really touches me is that JDC is providing a safe loving place for these kids," Henry concludes. "The staff of Agahozo-Shalom will be like the children's parents, which will be a dream come true for them." ✪



Agahozo Shalom Youth Village

### Also inside ....

The community celebrates Israel at 60. See page 26.  
The Barbara & Jerry Lewis Foundation visits New York City. See page 27.  
Keith Green