

Federation Launches the Ben Gurion Society

The Jewish Federation launched the Ben Gurion Society (BGS) on December 7 with an outreach social at the home of Stacey and Ira Slomka. BGS Chair Jen Algire shared information about the new donor recognition program for individuals 25-45 making a minimum household gift of \$1,000 to the Federation's annual campaign.

"The BGS is named for David Ben Gurion, the first Prime Minister of Israel. It is our way of saying, as young adults, that we can make a difference," Jen said. "What an exciting opportunity for us to combine our power, passion and resources to build a strong and

responsible Jewish community - here in Charlotte, in Israel and around the world."

In light of the 2009 Annual Campaign's theme, "The Federation is You," BGS member Michael Koss shared his personal story about how he got involved in Federation and why it's important to him to be a BGS member.

In the next year, BGS members will also enjoy several members-only events, including a reception with Federation's Major Donors and Lions, and Lunch with a Legend.

For more information and to join the BGS, please contact the Federation's Young Adult Coordinator, Jodi Greenwald, at



Young Adults gather for the BGS kickoff at the home of Stacey and Ira Slomka.



BGS Member Ira Slomka, BGS Chair Jen Algire, and BGS Member Michael Koss.

704-944-6759 or jodi.greenwald@jewishcharlotte.org.

The Ben Gurion Society is presented by the Jewish Federation and sponsored by Sun Trust. ✧



For more Federation news, see page 27.

Community News

Environmental Advocacy, Conservation Passion, and Jewish Heritage

Joy Braunstein Joins Staff of Carolina Raptor Center as CEO

By Amy Krakovitz

"Charlotte is a great city!" enthuses Joy Braunstein, newly appointed CEO of the Carolina Raptor Center. "There is so much to do and so many great people."

A great endorsement from someone who most recently lived in Pittsburgh, where she worked on the staff of the local Jewish Federation.

Joy Braunstein has always been involved in non-profit leadership, from her degrees in Environmental Education and Policy, Environmental Law, and Public Administration, to her professional work in the Jewish community.

Joy's mother, who has family connections in Hickory, NC, met her father on a kibbutz in Israel. Joy was raised in Taos, NM, where she was both bat mitzvahed and introduced to a love of the natural world around her. Even during her academic years working on environmental issues, she spent many long summers in Israel doing research and studying at the ulpan.

Once she relocated to the area for her position at the Raptor Center, Joy first sought out "good food and people who could mentor me." It seems her only disappointment with the area is that



Joy Braunstein

where she chose to live is neither walkable, nor has bike lanes, nor even any public transportation. "I now am bound to getting in my car for everything," she sighs.

Here in the Jewish community, we are very aware of the good work done at the Raptor Center: its environmental education and conservation of birds of prey, and

the rehabilitation of injured and orphaned raptors, as well as its research. Often our students have visited the Raptor Center and there are many times that educators and researchers from the Raptor Center have visited both our after school program at LJCC, as well as Camp Mindy. At the head of the food web, raptors are a leading scientific indicator of a healthy environment. The Carolina Raptor Center sees approximately 700 injured or orphaned raptors every year.

Joy's long career of focusing heavily on environmental advocacy and awareness has helped her to build a large national and international network that will help Carolina Raptor Center increase its significance as the premier regional environmental organization.

"Judaism has given me a unique interpretation of our relationship with our planet," Joy says, "its air, and water landscapes, and all of its life forms. It should be one of respect, of deference, and of stewardship." ✧

Parking Facility Construction is Underway

The Foundation of Shalom Park is pleased to announce that construction of the new, 220-space Barbara L. Levine Parking Pavilion is underway, with construction scheduled to be complete in the spring of 2009.

In our effort to better serve the users of Shalom Park, the Foundation will make every effort to minimize disruption and some of the upheaval that inevitably comes with a major construction project of this nature. We ask for your patience and welcome your questions and concerns.

We welcome your involvement in the campaign to fund this effort. Please contact Eric Sklut for additional information.



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Josh is a native Charlottean and attended the former Charlotte Hebrew Academy
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