

JEWISH FEDERATION NEWS

Federation Campaign Testimonial

Jonathan Howard - Making It Personal

The theme for the Jewish Federation's 2009 Annual Campaign is "The Federation Is You - Making It Personal." Below is the personal story Jonathan Howard, Chair of the 2009 Main Event, shared that evening prior to introducing special guest speaker Rabbi Irwin Kula. Jonathan Howard's story includes a glimpse into a past change of heart and a more recent one.

This past summer, I traveled to Israel. On the itinerary was a trip to Hadera our sister city and partnership community, where we would paint a mural of the Charlotte and Hadera skylines; and then have dinner at a stranger's home. This did not sound like my idea of fun. I'd have much rather gone to Tel Aviv, partied and maybe even met my *bashert*. "I can't even paint," I thought. Yet, I begrudgingly gave in to the higher pur-

pose of the trip and went with the group to Hadera. Tickles me still how wrong I was. It was an amazing experience painting with the kids, and then having dinner with a family of strangers who made me feel nothing less than special. It changed me.

My initial skepticism concerning the Federation has a similar ending. During the early years of my involvement with the Charlotte Jewish community, I didn't know what the Federation was doing or how they were allocating their funds. Wasn't even interested enough to find out though I gave scantily. Several years ago, however, my interest and confidence grew; partially through my connection with Sue Worrel and Sue Littauer, and from my term as President of TBE. It's true.

This "chair a fundraiser hat" is not one I usually wear (though some of Temple Beth El's con-

gregants might dispute this claim), but I don't do it tonight because, as President of Temple Beth El, I saw firsthand how the Federation is building community; in successful, well-handled and meaningful ways. Thus, my gifts and pledges to the Annual Campaign have increased substantially each year. Even this year.

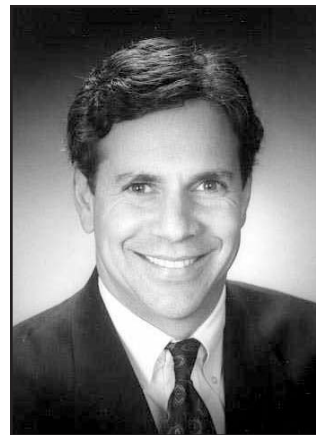
Sure, we're all reeling from a kind of fireworks display of Ponzi schemes, fraud and mis-managed funds. Not to mention our plummeting market, bankrupt giants, foreclosures, and frighteningly long unemployment lines. How can we trust any fund or foundation after Mr. Madoff fooled the world with his shenanigans for years?

It's enough to have us thinking we should hide our paper money in mattresses and hang onto every penny no matter how worthy a cause knocks on our door. But then, what about our duty to give? What about the people who need us?

Yes, I am giving way more this year. Both because something within does urge me to do so, and because I have confidence in the Federation. You can, too. Our pledged money is in the hands of trusted individuals and a committee that is thoughtful in its allocations.

The Federation is financially stable. And its eyes remain steadfast on the goal of preserving, fostering, and encouraging Jewish values, traditions and connections. Simply put, the Federation raises money and distributes it locally and internationally, for such things as:

- * Jewish education for all ages
- * Scholarship requests
- * Jewish experiences for our youth
- * Jews in need



Jonathan Howard

like we all did. With good sense and vigilance, the Federation tightened its operating budget (cutting it by \$75,000). And, since 2008's pledge collections were strong and stable, the Federation is positioned to fulfill all 2009 financial obligations to its agencies.

So now, it falls on every single one of us in this room to ensure the strength and stability of the Federation's 2009 Annual Campaign. We are the Federation and if it is to continue supporting Israel and our local needs, let alone reach its \$3.5 million dollar goal (which is 10% over last year), we must give generously.

We must realize that it is because times are leaner, that we must give more. It is because more people are in need that we must give more. It is because our children have mere clicks of a mouse to distract them that we must give more to help them maintain their strong sense of community, and religious responsibility. And trust their roots. And care for people overseas. And next door.

Thank you for living generously.

For more information or to join the community effort to raise the much needed funds for the 2009 Annual Campaign, you can

- * Visit our website at www.jewishcharlotte.org
- * Contact the Federation office at 704-944-6757
- * Call our 24 hour pledge hotline at 704-944-6895. ☆

Tributes to the 2009 Annual Campaign

The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte thanks and acknowledges the following tributes which have been made to the 2009 Annual Campaign during the months of January and February:

In honor of the marriage of Jan and Ira Greenberg by Sue and Mike Littauer

In honor of Dr. Rick Greene by Sue and Mike Littauer

In honor of the 20th wedding anniversary of Susan and Donald Jacobs by Sue and Mike Littauer

In honor of Donald Jacobs birthday by Adam Jacobs

In memory of Bonnie Borresen's mother by Sue and Mike Littauer

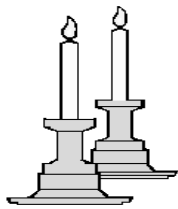
In memory of Martin Littauer,

father of Mike Littauer by Stephanie Brodsky, Phyllis and Al Garten, Arlene and Milton Goldstein, Ellen and Leon Gross, Marnie and Scott Moskowitz, Linda Seigel, Susan Stafford, Sue, Kim, Reid and Kyle Worrel.

If you would like to make a Tribute to the Jewish Federation, please contact the Federation office at 704-944-6761 or online at www.jewishcharlotte.org.

SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING FOR APRIL 2009

- Friday, April 3, 7:27 PM
- Friday, April 10, 7:33 PM
- Friday, April 17, 7:39 PM
- Friday, April 24, 7:44 PM



The Charlotte Jewish News

5007 Providence Road, Suite 112
Charlotte, NC 28226

Phone

(voice mail after office hours)

Office 704-944-6765

FAX 704-365-4507

email: amontoni@shalomcharlotte.org



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Amy Krakovitz - Editor

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Campaign 2009 at a Glance

Campaign Total to Date	\$2,132,968
Number of Contributions Received	1156
Percentage of Campaign Complete	61%

As of March 17, 2009

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