

Levine JCC Annual Meeting

The 23rd annual meeting of the Sandra and Leon Levine Jewish Community Center was held on October 13. The event, co-chaired by Lisa Blau and Michael Stier, celebrated another outstanding year at the Levine JCC and honored many of the volunteers, lay leadership and staff who help make your J such a special place.

Eric Kent, a member of the Board of Directors, delivered an inspiring D'Var Torah to the over 120 members in attendance. J members were also treated to a moving visual presentation that highlighted Levine JCC events of the year.

Directors John Box and Jonathan Wilk introduced the Leadership Appreciation Awards. The following outstanding volunteers received Program Service Awards for their commitment and dedication in serving our community: Lisa Cheramie, Amy Mullen, Michelle Rusgo (theater), Ira Slomka (J-Tribes), Dana Kapustin, Wendy Petricoff (Camp Mindy) and Stacey Slomka (Holiday Task Force).

Philip Berman, CEO of the Levine JCC, and Judy August, Board President, presented the Volunteers of the Year award to Wilma Asrael, Cathy Bogus, Gwen Orland and Barbara Zeigler for introducing, implementing and managing the Butterfly Project in Charlotte. This volunteer-intensive project, established to memorialize the children who perished during the

Holocaust, has produced over 1,200 ceramic butterflies to date. Butterflies have been made by members of our Jewish community, as well as by workshop participants at area schools, churches and various civic centers.

Bill Gorelick received the President's and Executive Director's Award for his dedicated service to the Levine JCC. Since the Levine JCC's inception, Bill has generously shared his artistic vision and business knowledge to "make the magic happen." Bill has also been instrumental in planning a permanent installation for Charlotte's butterflies on Shalom Park.

Roni Fishkin presented the new slate of Officers and Directors and presided over the election with the general membership unanimously approving the slate of nominees. Larry Schwartz is the new President; David Berger, Lisa Blau, John Box and David Van Glish are the newly elected Vice



L to R, Newly elected and reelected Levine JCC Directors, Roni Fishkin, Mark Lerner, Elise Kosofsky, Marni Eisner, Lisa Blau, David Cohen, Dana Kapustin, David Van Glish with new Board President, Larry Schwartz.

Presidents. Brad Winer joins them on the Executive Committee as VP/Treasurer. Newly elected (and re-elected) members of the Board of Directors are Andy Cohen, David Cohen, Marni Eisner, Roni Fishkin, Larry Fleishman, Ken Golder, Dana Kapustin, Eric Kent, Elise Kosofsky and Peter Smul. Seven outgoing Directors were honored for their service to the LJCC and received hand crafted Mezzuzot for their dedicated service.

Outgoing President Judy August, in her address, remarked that relationships and "the community building mission" is a key aspect of what the J provides to our community. She also advised that the Levine JCC invested \$160,000 for equipment replacement and facility upkeep this year to continue to provide the value our membership has come to expect. Judy congratulated the LJCC staff for improving programming managing through this difficult economic environment. The loss of \$84,000 in

United Way Funding to the Oasis Senior program has reminded the Levine JCC that we need to be able to look for additional funding to sustain ourselves without depending on outside resources. Judy remarked that the relationships she has built with staff, lay leadership and partner agencies during her tenure have been very meaningful and gratifying. She

wished Larry Schwartz great success.

New President Larry Schwartz spoke of the importance of the JCC to all generations. Referring to the loss of funding to the Oasis program, Larry emphasized the debt we owe to our seniors and vowed that the Levine JCC would always honor that obligation. Larry announced a new Distinctive Member program that is designed to help ensure the J's ongoing financial stability.

CEO Philip Berman praised our dedicated employees for their exceptional work and ongoing commitment to excellence. Jessica Myers, Mitch Ormand, Susan Rubenstein and Tim Whitener were specifically recognized as outstanding employees in 2009. ✪



L to R, Levine JCC CEO Philip Berman, pictured with outgoing Directors, Barbara Levin, Linda Goldsmith, Risa Miller and Past Board President, Judy August

Stan Greenspon Provides Funding For Oasis Field Trips

Stan Greenspon, a long time member of the Jewish community, has recently come forward with a generous donation to subsidize Oasis monthly field trips at the Levine Jewish Community Center. When Mr. Greenspon became aware of the \$84,000 reduction in funding to the LJCC Senior programming from the United Way, he immediately called to find out how he could help. It was his desire to make sure our Oasis participants continued to enjoy the

monthly field trips and he graciously offered to provide funding to keep this important program for our seniors. Mr. Greenspon is currently retired, but for many years he operated a successful Charlotte insurance business. He is committed to making a difference in the lives of others in our community and has a special interest in helping older adults. Like Mr. Greenspon, we need your help to continue to provide the programming so necessary to our Oasis

program. If you would like to make a donation or have any other means to support our senior programming, please do not hesitate to contact, Linda Bass, Senior Adult Program Director, at 704-944-6735. ✪

HIAS

(Continued from previous page)

rarely falls below 50 degrees Fahrenheit and only in the rainy season. Our clients need winter coats as well.

HIAS NC has been fortunate to receive regular donations of these items, especially from the Jewish community. Demand has increased with the increased number of refugees. The agency's needs are greater than ever before for items needed to comply with the R&P grant and essentially for the comfort of Charlotte's newest residents. Whatever we have not received in donations, we must buy out of R&P funds.

If you are redecorating, please think of HIAS. If you are moving, replacing or discarding furniture or household items, think of HIAS NC. We will arrange to pick up your items and provide a tax letter for your donation. Our clients will appreciate you, and your dona-

tions will be used well.

The agency receives other government grants, which allow us to continue providing employment services and English as a Second Language classes, extend case management, follow special medical cases, and make available family education classes. These grants do not pay all of HIAS NC's and its clients' bills. Cash donations allow us to meet our clients' needs. Cash donations allow us to turn on the lights for our clients and in our office.

Miracles happen all the time at HIAS NC. Chanukah is a particularly poignant time for all of us. Help keep the miracles alive for everyone. To make furniture, household items and cash donations to HIAS, please call 704-535-8803 or e-mail Ellen.dubin@hias.org. ✪

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