

JEWISH FEDERATION NEWS

Acharai (Follow Me) and Inspire Others to Join Us

On December 1, the Jewish Federation honored its Lions of Judah during a special program at Zebra Restaurant. Tracy Brown, co-chair of the 2010 Lion of Judah campaign with Amy Gould and Alison Lerner, welcomed the Lions and their guests and thanked them for their generosity and commitment to the Jewish Federation and the Annual Campaign.

Amy Gould continued by saying, "In Charlotte our Lions of Judah are a dynamic group of 47 philanthropic women whose gifts to the 2009 Annual Campaign totaled \$691,400. This represented 85% of the total Women's Campaign and 24% of the total 2009 Annual Campaign. Tracy, Alison and I are each proud to wear our Lion of Judah pin, a symbol which defines us and our values much more accurately than any other piece of jewelry. Giving our Lion of Judah gift is a reflection of who we are. Wearing the pin is a proud way of saying 'Acharai' (follow me) to inspire others to join us."

Alison Lerner introduced the guest speaker by saying, "Sophie Ambrose was born and raised in the Ozark Mountains of Arkansas with no electricity or running water. Although her mother was Jewish, Sophie was raised with no other connections to Judaism or the Jewish people. While in graduate school Sophie learned about birthright Israel during a Google search, and participated in birthright and the March of the Living in 2003-2004. She went on the trip not sure if Judaism meant anything to her and came back as a proud



Lion of Judah co-chairs, Amy Gould, Alison Lerner; guest speaker Sophie Ambrose, and Lion of Judah co-chair, Tracy Brown.

Jew - ready to integrate Judaism within her life." Sophie's story captivated and warmed the hearts of the 45 women attending the luncheon as she thanked them for changing her life through their financial support of the Jewish Federation and the Lion of Judah campaign.

After lunch, Tracy Brown called upon Marcelle Peck to sign the beautiful LOJE (Lion of Judah Endowment) ketubah, which has been signed by eleven other women who have made a lasting commitment to the continuation of Jewish life after their lifetime. Other women who have established Lion of Judah Endowments are Barbara Bernstein, Lee Blumenthal, Tracy Brown, Aleen Epstein, Meg Goldstein, Stacy Gorelick, Florence Jaffa, Sandra Levine, Jill Newman, Nicki Ostrow and Linda Seigel.

The crowning moment of the wonderful afternoon occurred when two women stepped forward to become new Lions of Judah bringing the total number



Marcelle Peck signs the Lion of Judah Ketubah.

of Lions in Charlotte to 49.

If you would like to learn more about how to become a Lion of Judah, please contact the Federation office at 704-944-6757. ☆

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Brian and Glenda Bernhardt, Chris and Tair Giudice, Federation's new Young Adult Coordinator, at the YAD Wine & Cheese reception prior to Dr. Daniel Gordis's remarks on November 17.

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**Deadline for the
February 2010 issue of
The Charlotte Jewish News
is January 11.
Happy New Year!**

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SAVE THE DATE

Jewish Community Annual Purim Carnival

Purim in the 60s

☺ Shake Your Groove Thing along with your Gragger

☺ Put on your tie-dyed three-cornered hat.

☺ Peace out with Mordechai,
Esther and the gang.

Sunday, February 28

12:00 - 3:00 pm

Levine JCC

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