

Community News

We are All Here for a Reason

By Phil Warshauer, Executive Director, Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community

One of the most rewarding parts of my profession is having the opportunity to share ideas with friends and colleagues throughout the country. It is even more exciting when an event or conference brings us all together. Unlike some professions, there is no competition between us – or at least there shouldn't be. We all work in our

own unique environments to attain the common goals of strengthening and supporting our own Jewish communities and improving Jewish life throughout North America, Israel and the world.

In December, I attended the first ever Jewish Legacy Forum in Tucson, AZ. Eighty-five professionals and lay leaders from 26 different communities throughout North America attended this two-day conference. The forum was

co-sponsored by Jewish Federations of North America, the Jewish Community Foundation of San Diego and the Jewish Community Foundation of Southern Arizona. It was a resounding success.



Phil Warshauer at the Inaugural Jewish Legacy Forum in Tucson.

The forum covered such topics as creating a legacy building culture in the community, partnerships between agencies to build endowments, and our role in helping donors to fulfill their own philanthropic visions through legacy planning. We discussed how our efforts support the annual campaigns and capital campaigns taking place throughout our Jewish communities, and how we can best assist our community members with making gifts that will carry on their philanthropic wishes beyond their own lifetimes. Attendees agreed that developing permanent endowments is even more important today, particularly

as our communities deal with the economic challenges that have impacted our agencies and the lives of our friends and neighbors.

The event's opening speaker was Jeffrey Solomon, president of the Andrea and Charles Bronfman Philanthropies and co-author of *The Art of Giving*. Solomon stressed the fact that when we examine a community's needs and challenges, we are only looking at one community. While we may all share some of the same needs and challenges, the solutions are often uniquely our own. What works for one community may have no application or significance to the next.

And then I heard the quote that truly resonated. "We are witness to something historic," said keynote speaker and award-winning columnist, Amy Hirshberg Lederman. "We are all here for a reason. We believe in the future of the Jewish people and we can make a difference in that future."

Those were powerful words for us all to hear, and I hope they are powerful for you to read. These words set the tone for why we traveled to Arizona, and they will continue to resonate in our minds for quite some time. We all had our own reason for being there, and I found myself searching for my reason during the long cross country flight home. Somewhere over New Mexico or Arkansas it occurred to me that during the past several days we were each helping one another to answer that very question, and that our role once home would be to encourage our

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community members to ask and answer that same question.

Please take some time of your own to consider how you can make a difference in the future of the Jewish people at this historic point in time. What is your role? The answer is as different for each of us individually as it is for each of the communities represented at this thought-provoking conference. As you search for your own answer, I offer my assistance in the much same way that Carol Karsch from Tucson or Diane Azorsky from Kansas City assisted me. ✧

For additional information contact Phil Warshauer at 704-973-4544 or pwarshauer@charlottejewishfoundation.org.



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The Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community is proud to welcome Dr. Robert and Anne Yudell as its newest members of the Book of Life Society. We want to thank them for their dedication to preserving the future of our Jewish community.

The Book of Life Society recognizes those individuals and families who have made commitments to the Jewish community by leaving a legacy gift to benefit future generations. It is a promise made by one generation to the next that the values of our Jewish heritage will be preserved, shared and cherished by our children, and our children's children.

JCC Tributes for February 2010

DAVID SILVERMAN MEMORIAL FUND

Wishing Sam Polk a happy birthday from Dale and Larry Polsky
Wishing Marc Silverman a speedy recovery from Judie and Mike Van Glish

LJCC MACCABI GAMES FUND

In memory of Frances Gottheim from Roni and Glenn Fishkin

LJCC GENERAL PROGRAM ENDOWMENT FUND

In honor of Wendi Frost from Jamie Sackeim

In memory of Harold Fishkin from Andrea and Adrian Mesoznik

MINDY ELLEN LEVINE DAY CAMP FUND

Wishing Blair, Haley and Mason Sklut, and Brian and Amanda Levine a Happy Chanukah from Amy and Alfred Dawson and family

Wishing Julie and Howard Levine and family, and Sandra and Leon



Levine, an Amy and Alfred Dawson a Happy Chanukah from Lori and Eric Sklut and family
Wishing Lori and Eric Sklut and family, Julie and Howard Levine and family, and Amy and Alfred Dawson and family a Happy Chanukah from Sandra and Leon Levine
Wishing Renee and Brandon Levine and family a Happy Chanukah from Julie and Howard Levine and family
SARA'S CIRCLE WOMEN OF STRENGTH

In memory of Frances Gottheim from Mike and Mary Rosenberg

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Dates for this year's Yiddish Institute have been set!!

SAVE THE DATES: August 19-22